

Keeping the Momentum: OSCE Anti-Corruption Impact Stories from Late 2024

Foreword

Corruption remains one of the most persistent threats to peace, stability and sustainable development. According to the UN, each year it drains an estimated 3 trillion US dollars from the global economy — more than 5 per cent of global GDP. These are not just numbers. They represent schools never built, vital social services underfunded and trust in public institutions eroded. Corruption distorts fair competition and undermines the very foundations of democracy. For the OSCE, combating corruption is core to our comprehensive approach to security, and remains one of the key priorities of my Office.

Our work is guided by the mandates given to us by our participating States to promote good governance and combat corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism, as enshrined in the 2003 Maastricht Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, as well as several other guiding documents and Ministerial Council Decisions on combating and preventing corruption.

The most powerful evidence of progress in the fight against corruption comes from the ground. Across the OSCE region, our field operations and institutions are turning commitments into action through countless projects, initiatives and activities aimed at creating an environment of integrity and trust.

This report highlights impact stories from across the OSCE region — tangible examples of how our collective efforts are making a real difference on the ground. The stories found in this report demonstrate that small victories against corruption



can inspire broader transformation across societies and that meaningful change is possible when dedication, innovation and collaboration come together.

Through a wide range of initiatives, the OSCE supports participating States in building effective and accountable institutions. We promote open data and digitalization to enhance transparency and service delivery; strengthen asset recovery mechanisms; foster co-operation with civil society; and build the capacity of criminal justice and law enforcement practitioners. We also provide platforms for international dialogue and exchange, supporting co-ordination across borders to tackle corruption.

Prevention remains a cornerstone of our work. The OSCE has advanced innovative approaches using digital tools and open data to detect and prevent corruption, supported whistleblowing and integrity systems, and developed learning platforms for law enforcement.

Foreword

Corruption affects women and men differently, therefore we work to ensure that anti-corruption policies empower women economically and give them a voice as leaders and decision makers in the fight against corruption.

Education and awareness are equally crucial. Engaging youth and civil society is essential to fostering a culture of integrity from the grassroots level. By empowering young people to become champions of transparency and accountability, we help build the foundations for sustainable good governance.

Finally, we continue to invest in capacity-building for anti-corruption institutions and practitioners — from improving asset recovery and public ethics frameworks to producing new tools and knowledge products that strengthen institutional resilience.

Promoting good governance and combating corruption is more than a moral imperative — it is a strategic necessity for building resilient, peaceful and prosperous societies. I hope that the impact stories featured in this report will inspire you. They are a testament to the dedication of the women and men across the OSCE region who are committed to integrity, transparency and making our shared space more secure and just for all.



Ambassador Bakyt Dzhusupov
*Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic
and Environmental Activities*

Abbreviations & Acronyms

ACFPN	(OSCE) Anti-Corruption Focal Point Network
AML	anti-money laundering
APC	(Kosovo) Agency for Prevention of Corruption
CFT	combating the financing of terrorism
EAG	(FATF) Eurasian Group (on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism)
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FBiH	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
GdF	(Italy's) Guardia di Finanza
GGRC	(Turkmenistan's) Good Governance Resource Centre
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IT	information technology
MFET	Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan
MoI	Ministry of Interior
NRA	National Risk Assessment
OCEEA	(OSCE) Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
OIO	(OSCE) Office of Internal Oversight
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
SOPs	standard operation procedures
SPU	(OSCE) Support Programme for Ukraine
TFS	(FATF) Targeted Financial Sanctions
TNTD	(OSCE) Transnational Threats Department
YAB	youth advisory board

Introduction

This publication is a continuation of the 2023–2024 report *From Commitment to Action: OSCE’s Anti-Corruption and Good Governance* and showcases how the OSCE’s anti-corruption and good governance work evolved during the final months of 2024. Guided by the OSCE’s longstanding commitment to transparency, accountability and integrity as the foundations of security and stability, this update captures the momentum of the period and sets the stage for a new, more systematic phase of reporting.

This edition covers only the last four months of 2024 for two main reasons. First, data collection for the previous report concluded in August 2024, but several important developments were registered between then and the end of the year. Second, this period coincides with the development of a new strategic approach and a systematized reporting framework for OSCE’s anti-corruption and good governance work.

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), together with the Anti-Corruption Focal Point Network (ACFPN),¹ is leading an important effort to improve how the OSCE documents and communicates its impact. During the Second Meeting of the ACFPN, held in December 2024, focal points and practitioners from across the OSCE discussed lessons learned from the 2023–2024 period, and launched the development of the Whole-of-OSCE Approach to Anti-Corruption² as well as a new data collection tool.

The forthcoming “Whole-of-OSCE Anti-Corruption Programming Strategy 2025–2027: Continuing to Build Foundations for Security and Prosperity” aims to strengthen internal co-ordination, coherence and information-sharing to ensure that OSCE’s assistance remains strategic, data-driven and aligned across all dimensions and field operations. The accompanying reporting tool is designed to capture results from all OSCE institutions and field operations in a structured, comparable format, while also informing the Strategy’s monitoring indicators. This innovation will enable consistent tracking of progress and ensure that the OSCE’s achievements are presented in a unified, evidence-based manner. The 2025 Impact Report will be the first to employ this enhanced structure, thus providing a comprehensive, organization-wide overview of the OSCE’s contributions to preventing and combating corruption.

From a methodological perspective, this update maintains the structure of the 2023–2024 *From Commitment to Action* report. It highlights the Organization’s efforts across three main pillars — prevention, education and the fight against corruption — and presents key anti-corruption and good governance initiatives delivered during the reporting period. The impact stories featured here consolidate previous achievements and lay the groundwork for the stronger, more measurable results expected in 2025.

1 The ACFPN is composed of OSCE national and/or international staff members nominated by the Heads of Executive Structures or Departments. The network supports the OSCE’s efforts to enhance internal coherence, communication and co-ordination of its anti-corruption initiatives. It serves as a platform for exchanging information, knowledge and experience, as well as for stocktaking and joint planning of anti-corruption initiatives and assistance.

2 The Whole-of-OSCE Approach to Anti-Corruption was one of the key recommendations of the OSCE Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) report *Supporting Incremental Changes in the Fight Against Corruption – Independent Evaluation of the OSCE’s Anti-Corruption Assistance 2011–2021*, which reviewed a decade of anti-corruption assistance.

1. Corruption Prevention Pillar

1.1 Promoting the Use of Open Data and Digitalization

Digitalization of municipal public services

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo is supporting Kosovo's³ Agency of Information Society, the Ministry of Local Government Administration and the Association of Kosovo Municipalities in finalizing new municipal webpages and advancing the digitalization of public services.

During a workshop held in **November 2024**, municipal officials received hands-on technical support, both individually and in small groups, on topics such as new website features, data migration and content publication. The training also provided guidance on using a new content management system and integrating services with the eKosovo platform.



Good practice takeaway: *The initiative is strengthening municipal transparency and citizen access to services. The balanced participation of women and men in the training further contributes to sustainable and inclusive digital transformation in local governance.*

Link to OSCE commitments: *Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/14 (Basel, 2014) on prevention of corruption — “introduction of effective measures facilitating public access to information and the promotion of effective public service delivery”.*

This integration of services helps eliminate duplication of work across central and local platforms. The workshop gathered 42 participants (7 women, 35 men), including municipal IT and communication officers, who practiced managing and updating the new webpages. The new municipal webpages, which were launched in March 2025, are improving communication with citizens, enhancing transparency, streamlining administrative procedures, modernizing public services and increasing accessibility for residents.

³ All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

1. Corruption Prevention Pillar

E-learning training platform for police

The **OSCE Mission to Montenegro** is supporting the Police Directorate of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) in developing and updating an e-learning platform for in-service police training. Built on the “Moodle” system and adapted to integrate with a mobile police app, the platform enhances access to training across the force. To build police in-house capacity in administering the platform and designing engaging online content, the Mission organizes training, knowledge exchange and mentoring sessions for MoI staff. In October 2024, two training cycles expanded the platform’s reach: 13 police officials (5 women, 8 men) learned to create and publish content, while an advanced session for 11 officials (4 women, 7 men) focused on integrating video and interactive tools.



Good practice takeaway: *By combining technical support with capacity-building and mentoring, the OSCE Mission ensures that the platform is sustainable, user-driven and adaptable—thus offering a model that can be replicated by other institutions seeking to digitalize professional training.*

Link to OSCE commitments: *Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/20 (Tirana, 2020) on preventing and combating corruption through digitalization and increased transparency — “promoting and using digital technologies to strengthen and extend anti-corruption training”.*

Over a six-week mentorship phase, participants developed specialized courses with guidance from Mission experts. As of July 2025, the platform has hosted twenty courses and started enrolling users from the Police Directorate, particularly within the border police.

1. Corruption Prevention Pillar

1.2 Prevention of Money Laundering

Good Governance Resource Centre

More than a decade ago, the **OSCE Centre in Ashgabat** supported the establishment of the Good Governance Resource Centre (GGRC) within the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan (MFET) to strengthen national capacities in combating corruption and money laundering, and promoting good governance practices. The GGRC provides access to a specialized library, databases and periodicals, and serves as a hub for training and knowledge exchange. In 2024, the OSCE and GGRC actively supported the implementation of Turkmenistan's national framework on anti-money laundering (AML), combating the financing of terrorism (CFT), and countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.



Good practice takeaway: *The GGRC has proven to be a sustainable hub for expertise and interagency co-operation, offering a model for embedding anti-corruption resources and good governance principles within national institutions.*

Link to OSCE commitments: *OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension (Maastricht, 2003): “We will continue to develop, implement and enforce financial legislation and regulations on combating money laundering and corruption and criminalizing the financing of terrorism.”*

This included work on the National Risk Assessment Report and the Eurasian Group (EAG) Mutual Evaluation Report of Turkmenistan. To strengthen implementation, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, in co-operation with the EAG, organized a seminar on FATF Targeted Financial Sanctions (TFS) on 2 and 3 October 2024, bringing together the Financial Monitoring Service at the MFET, law enforcement agencies, financial institutions and other State bodies. The seminar focused on ensuring the effectiveness of the TFS regime and addressed measures against sanction evasion. In addition, from 16 to 19 September 2024, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat facilitated a study visit to Kazakhstan for representatives of the Financial Monitoring Service, MFET, law enforcement and the Central Bank of Turkmenistan. The visit enabled peer exchange of experience in countering corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing.

1. Corruption Prevention Pillar

■ Operational Handbook on National Risk Assessments (NRAs)

Good practice takeaway: By consolidating multiple NRAs into a single operational handbook, Serbia is strengthening its evidence base for risk assessment and supervision.

Link to OSCE commitments: Ministerial Council Declaration No. 2/12 (Dublin, 2012) on strengthening good governance and combating corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism – “implementing the FATF Recommendations, including by building capacity to conduct, and to contribute and respond to, money-laundering and financing-of-terrorism risk assessments.”

On 28 November 2024, **the OSCE Mission to Serbia** organized a workshop to finalize an operational handbook based on the findings of Serbia’s National Risk Assessments (NRAs). The handbook consolidates statistical data collected during the NRA process and has updated it with information gathered in 2024. Serbia has conducted six different NRAs, covering money laundering, terrorist financing, proliferation, legal persons, non-profit organizations and virtual asset providers. The workshop allowed participants to review the data, identify gaps and ensure consistency across assessments. The event brought together 25 representatives from state institutions, including public prosecutor’s offices, the National Bank of Serbia, the Ministry of Interior, the Supreme Court, the Administration for the Prevention of Money Laundering, and the Securities Commission.

1. Corruption Prevention Pillar

1.3 Whistleblower protection

Whistleblowing as a tool against corruption

The **OSCE Mission in Kosovo**, supporting the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC), organized a series of workshops in October and November 2024 to promote the legal framework for the protection of whistleblowers. The sessions provided a platform to discuss the obligations of public institutions in safeguarding whistleblowers, with APC officials explaining preventive measures, reporting duties, and communication channels between institutions and the Agency.

The workshops also addressed practical issues such as investigation procedures, confidentiality, data protection and the role and competences of the APC in preventing corruption.



Good practice takeaway: *By combining legal guidance with practical training and peer exchange, the workshops contributed to strengthening Kosovo’s whistleblowing framework. The inclusive approach—covering both local and central institutions—ensures broader ownership of the mechanism.*

Link to OSCE commitments: *Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/14 (Basel, 2014) on prevention of corruption — “Recognize the important role whistle-blowers play in identifying and preventing corruption and defending public interest, and intensify individual national efforts to provide sufficient protection for whistle-blowers”*

1. Corruption Prevention Pillar

1.4 Promoting integrity and corruption risk assessment



■ Municipal integrity management systems

Good practice takeaway: Advancing integrity at the municipal level requires practical training, strong participation of both women and men, and measurable improvements in knowledge and implementation.

Link to OSCE commitments: Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/14 (Basel, 2014) on prevention of corruption – “Promote a culture of integrity, transparency and accountability”.

In 2024, the **OSCE Mission to Skopje** supported several municipalities in strengthening their internal integrity systems. Thirteen capacity-building events were organized, reaching over 250 participants (159 women and 91 men). The interventions targeted key stakeholders at different levels. Mayors and senior municipal officials recognized their leadership role in promoting integrity, while municipal integrity officers received practical training to operationalize reforms at the local level.

The impact of this outreach is reflected in the State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption’s 2024 Monitoring Report. Following the Mission’s training sessions, participants’ average knowledge of core integrity components rose by 14%, with notable improvements in ethical conduct (+20.9%), public interest (+21.3%), and whistleblower protection (+19.2%).

Progress in implementation is also significant. In 2023, only 1.4% of municipalities were rated “good” or “very good” in applying integrity systems. By the end of 2024, that share had increased tenfold. Moreover, 13% of municipalities successfully implemented more than half of the policy’s core components, compared to none the year before.

1. Corruption Prevention Pillar



■ Building integrity and fostering interagency co-operation in the civil service

Good practice takeaway: Strengthening integrity in the public sector requires co-ordinated, competency-based training for civil servants, particularly those in managerial roles. Emphasizing transparency, ethical governance and digital transformation fosters measurable improvements in both knowledge and application.

Link to OSCE commitments: Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/14 (Basel, 2014) on prevention of corruption – “Promote a culture of integrity, transparency and accountability”.

In October and November 2024, **the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina** supported a series of three training sessions aimed at improving the competencies of 101 civil servants from all levels of government, with a particular focus on those in managerial positions. The programme was implemented in co-operation with the Civil Service Agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH), Republika Srpska and the Brčko District Department for Civil Service. The programme addressed key areas such as leadership, institutional integrity, digital governance, public procurement, human resources and public finance management.

The training series contributed to strengthening institutional capacity by enhancing understanding of integrity frameworks and practical anti-corruption tools. In response to their relevance, the FBiH Civil Service Agency has integrated the modules into their 2025 training programme. The joint co-ordination of the initiative also reinforced co-operation among the civil service agencies, promoting a consistent approach toward integrity and professional development across different levels of government.

1. Corruption Prevention Pillar



■ Corruption risk assessment methodology in public procurement

Good practice takeaway: A robust risk assessment framework in public procurement relies on institutional ownership.

Link to OSCE commitments: Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/14 (Basel, 2014) on prevention of corruption — “establish or enhance appropriate systems of public procurement that are based on transparency, competition and objective criteria in decision-making, that are effective in preventing corruption”.

The **OSCE Presence in Albania**, in partnership with the Italian Anti-Corruption Authority, the Ministry of State for Public Administration and Anti-Corruption, and the Public Procurement Agency, is contributing to advancing a national framework for corruption risk assessment in public procurement. During a roundtable held on 12 December 2024, stakeholders discussed proposed risk indicators designed to strengthen the methodology.

1. Corruption Prevention Pillar



■ Internal instructions on oversight mechanisms

Good practice takeaway: Strengthening police accountability through clear standard operation procedures (SOPs), expert collaboration, and inclusive participation enhances investigative oversight, improving the resolution of complex and unsolved cases.

Link to OSCE commitments: Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/14 (Basel, 2014) on prevention of corruption — “promote a culture of integrity, transparency and accountability”.

In 2024, the **OSCE Mission to Serbia** assisted the Serbian Ministry of Interior (MoI) in strengthening oversight mechanisms for resolving ongoing criminal investigations and in enhancing the capacity of police investigators to address unsolved cases.

To this end, the Mission facilitated a series of meetings with the MoI’s Experts’ Group — comprising representatives from the Anti-Crime Department, the Service for Suppression of Crime, and the Secretariat (2 women and 3 men) — to develop “Instructions on Oversight Mechanisms” for overseeing ongoing investigations across all police districts in Serbia.

This initiative directly supports the objectives of the Police Directorate, as mandated by the Law on Police of the Republic of Serbia, to ensure effective guidance and supervision of police departments and units. The SOPs of the oversight mechanisms provide a clear methodology for structured case oversight and offer investigators tailored recommendations for addressing challenges in unsolved cases and guiding future operational steps.

1. Corruption Prevention Pillar

1.5 Empowering Women to Fight Corruption

Masterclass “Corruption and Gender”

On 4 December 2024, the **OSCE Mission to Skopje** hosted a masterclass on anti-corruption with law students of the South East European University. The event focused on the intersection between corruption and gender. The speakers provided an overview of sexual extortion (“sextortion”) as a form of corruption and presented recent academic and policy developments on gendered forms of corruption, including sextortion, gender norms and legal biases in interpretation.

Good practice takeaway: *By engaging students in an interactive discussion combining academic research, law-enforcement practice and gender perspectives, the masterclass strengthened future legal professionals’ awareness of gendered forms of corruption.*

Link to OSCE commitments: *Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/20 (Tirana, 2020) on preventing and combating corruption through digitalization and increased transparency – “Promoting the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the development and implementation of relevant anti-corruption activities, with the view to achieving gender equality, and taking into account that corruption disproportionately affects women and the vulnerable”; also the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.*

The masterclass attracted strong interest, with 62 students (34 women and 28 men) attending in person and additional participants joining online. Students reported an improved understanding of how gender perspectives influence both the manifestation of corruption and the legal responses to it, knowledge directly relevant to their future roles as lawyers and judges.

1. Corruption Prevention Pillar



Credit: Skgo

Gender equality in local self-governments

The **OSCE Mission to Serbia**, in co-operation with the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, supported an eight-week e-learning programme on gender equality for local self-governments. The training course reached 86 local officials and members of Gender Equality Mechanisms, including 75 women and 11 men. It provided practical knowledge on equal opportunity policies, gender-responsive planning and prevention of gender-based violence. Participants also strengthened their understanding of legal obligations and gender mainstreaming tools, enabling municipalities to implement inclusive policies in line with national and international standards.

Good practice takeaway: The focus on practical tools ensures sustainability and provides a replicable model for mainstreaming gender equality in public administration.

Link to OSCE commitments: Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/17 (Vienna, 2017) on promoting economic participation in the OSCE area – “Strengthen measures that enable the development of women’s entrepreneurial and other work-related skills, and promote and protect equal opportunity for participation of women in the labour market”; also the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

2. Anti-Corruption Education Pillar

2.1 Involvement of Civil Society and Youth

MY WAY – without crime, corruption and drugs!

From September to December 2024, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) and the Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) partnered with Terre des hommes Moldova to launch a nationwide campaign to prevent youth involvement in corruption, organized crime and drug use.

The campaign established a youth advisory board (YAB), bringing together 47 active young people (12 men, 35 women) from 17 locations across Moldova. With guidance from experts from the National Anticorruption Centre and the judiciary, YAB members participated in six intensive workshops. They examined how corruption undermines fairness and trust, analysed its drivers and reflected on how youth can play a role in prevention. Building on this foundation, 36 YAB members (26 women, 10 men) gathered at the Youth for Safety and Crime Prevention Autumn School (26–28 October 2024) to design a peer-to-peer

prevention initiative. Targeted at youth aged 12 to 18, the campaign raised awareness of the risks of corruption, crime and drug use, while fostering a culture of integrity and lawfulness. Between November and December 2024, YAB members rolled out 120 activities in 19 schools across 17 communities, reaching 4,074 young people (2,159 women and 1,915 men).



Credit: Terre des hommes Moldova

“At first, I did not know how corruption connected to my life. Now I see it is about fairness, and we all have a role in protecting it.” *Participant testimonial*

2. Anti-Corruption Education Pillar



“I learned that corruption is not just politics, it is something we can see, question and change. And we are not afraid to start.” *Participant testimonial*

Good practice takeaway: *By empowering young people to design and lead their own awareness activities, the anti-corruption campaign fostered ownership, creativity and credibility among peers.*

Link to OSCE commitments: *Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/17 (Vienna, 2017) on promoting economic participation in the OSCE area – “Continue their efforts to promote economic participation of and employment opportunities for young people by, inter alia, ensuring the necessary conditions for the education and vocational training of youth, and through programmes facilitating youth access to the labour market”.*

Activities included art exhibitions, justice-themed quest games, short films with guided discussions, online quizzes, and a podcast series with eight justice and child protection specialists. A post-campaign survey has shown the strong impact of the initiative: 74 per cent of participants reported feeling better informed about corruption risks.

2. Anti-Corruption Education Pillar

9th edition of the Democracy Academy

From 12 July to 22 September 2024, the **OSCE Mission to Serbia**, in partnership with the civil society organization Centre for Research, Transparency and Accountability (CRTA), organized the “School of Independent Election Observation” as the 9th edition of the Democracy Academy. The programme contained four modules — two in-person and two online — combining lectures, debates and workshops.

The event engaged 22 young political leaders, activists, journalists, and students aged 17 to 25 (13 women, 8 men), equipping them with practical skills in election observation and advocacy for democratic standards.



Credit: CRTA

Good practice takeaway: *By combining academic expertise, practical training and mentorship, the Academy fosters both knowledge and confidence in democratic values among young leaders.*

Link to OSCE commitments: *Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE (1990) – “The participating States declare that the will of the people, freely and fairly expressed through periodic and genuine elections, is the basis of the authority and legitimacy of all government.”*

Sessions addressed electoral systems, the functioning of democratic institutions, judicial oversight and the role of media in elections. Participants benefited from the expertise of academics, parliamentarians, legal experts and international practitioners, including professors from the University of Belgrade’s Faculty of Political Science, members of parliament, an expert from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and lawyers specializing in electoral law.

2. Anti-Corruption Education Pillar

International Financial Olympiad

From 2 to 13 September 2024, the **OSCE Centre in Ashgabat** hosted a ten-day advanced training course on anti-money laundering (AML), countering the financing of terrorism (CFT), and countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction for students from the Turkmen State Institute of Finance, the State University, the State Institute of Economics and Management, and other higher educational institutions.

The training, designed to prepare students for the International Financial Olympiad (IFO), featured an international expert who introduced FATF standards, money laundering/financing of terrorism typologies, and best practices from OSCE participating States on assessing the effectiveness of national AML/CFT systems and identifying related risks.



Credit: turkmenistan.gov.tm

Good practice takeaway: Linking training with an international competition creates strong motivation, measurable results and a replicable model for engaging youth in financial integrity issues.

“Four students went on to win awards at the Olympiad – one first-grade diploma and three second-grade diplomas”. *Impact analysis*

Link to OSCE commitments: Ministerial Council Declaration No. 2/12 (Dublin, 2012) on strengthening good governance and combating corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism – “freedom of information and access to information foster openness and accountability in public policy and procurement, and enable civil society, including the media, to contribute to preventing and combating corruption, the financing of terrorism, and money-laundering and its predicate offences.” Ministerial Council Declaration No. 5/18 (Milan, 2018) on Human Capital Development in the Digital Era: “support the development of human capital so as to manage the transition to increasingly automated and digital economies”.

2. Anti-Corruption Education Pillar

■ Ethical media content by young journalists

Good practice takeaway: Investment in journalism education strengthens ethical media

Link to OSCE commitments: Ministerial Council Declaration No. 7/09 (Athens, 2009) on Women's Participation in Political and Public Life – “Support, as appropriate, non-governmental and research bodies in producing targeted studies and awareness-raising initiatives for identifying specific challenges in women’s participation in political and public life and, in promoting equality of opportunities between women and men”; also the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

Ukraine’s major media outlets adopted the “Gender Equality Policy in Media Content” proposed by the Commission on Journalistic Ethics, a body of self-regulation of journalists and editorial boards in Ukraine, and elaborated with the financial support of the OSCE Support Programme for Ukraine (SPU), marking a significant step toward embedding gender-sensitive standards in the country’s media landscape.

The policy has been embraced by more than 4,000 media practitioners, influencing content consumed by over 30 million people nationwide. In parallel, the OSCE SPU developed a media literacy training programme for journalism students. By the end of 2024, the programme was introduced as a compulsory course in the curricula of six Ukrainian universities, reaching more than 4,000 students annually. The training equips future journalists with the skills to engage in ethical reporting and responsible communication.

2. Anti-Corruption Education Pillar

■ Masterclass on anti-corruption

Good practice takeaway: *A practical, case-based learning approach strengthens future legal professionals' capacity to uphold the rule of law.*

Link to OSCE commitments: *Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/14 (Basel, 2014) on the prevention of corruption – “delivery of capacity-building activities and projects in the area of preventing and combating corruption”.*

On 28 October 2024, the OSCE Mission to Skopje organized a masterclass on anti-corruption at the Faculty of Law Iustinianus Primus, attended by 34 law students (23 women and 11 men). Prosecutors and judges shared their experiences in handling corruption cases, offering a well-balanced mix of legal theory and practical application, and emphasizing the importance of upholding fair trial standards. Students reported an improved understanding of the criminal aspects of corruption and how to apply this knowledge in their future roles as lawyers and judges.

3. Combating Corruption Pillar

3.1 Enhancing Asset Recovery Mechanisms

■ Asset recovery training



Good practice takeaway: *It is crucial to develop a shared understanding of asset recovery processes among police officers, prosecutors and judges.*

Link to OSCE commitments: *Ministerial Council Declaration No. 2/12 (Dublin, 2012) on strengthening good governance and combating corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism – “We therefore support measures geared towards removing barriers to asset recovery, inter alia, by increasing the efficiency of legal procedures and preventing abuse of those procedures, enhancing efforts to prevent money-laundering, and strengthening international co-operation on asset recovery. We encourage continuing efforts in our countries aimed at the recovery and return of stolen assets and the denial of safe haven in our countries to the proceeds of corruption, consistent with applicable law.”*

In co-operation with the United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, the OSCE Mission to Serbia organized two operational workshops on asset forfeiture in 2024 for 61 police officers, prosecutors and judges (31 women, 30 men). The workshops focused on strengthening participants’ ability to make informed decisions in asset forfeiture procedures and to conduct such procedures lawfully and efficiently. Using case studies, participants addressed common challenges in financial investigations and developed problem-solving skills to trace, identify, seize or freeze, and ultimately to confiscate criminal proceeds or substitute assets.

3. Combating Corruption Pillar

3.2 Enhancing Institutional Capacities to Combat Corruption

Peer-to-peer exchange

From 12 to 14 November 2024, the OCEEA organized a study visit for 21 Moldovan law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners (6 women and 15 men) to Italy. The visit provided an opportunity to engage with Italy's Guardia di Finanza (GdF) and the Italian National Anti-Corruption Authority. Participants were introduced to advanced investigative tools, software and practices applied by the GdF and its specialized units, including the Central Investigation Service on Organized Crime and the Special Anti-Corruption Directorate. The programme also highlighted Italy's Anti-Corruption Plan and its public procurement monitoring systems. The Moldovan practitioners deepened their understanding of interagency co-operation and cross-border strategies.



Good practice takeaway: Peer-to-peer exchange builds professional networks and strengthens cross-border investigations.

“One of the main benefits of the visit was that participants had the chance to directly interact with Italian authorities and learn from them.” Participant testimonial

Link to OSCE commitments: Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/14 (Basel, 2014) on prevention of corruption – “the importance of international co-operation between national anti-corruption bodies for the exchange of best practices, further development of anti-corruption measures and exchange of knowledge among anti-corruption practitioners”

3. Combating Corruption Pillar

■ Combating high-level and political corruption



Good practice takeaway: Training on interagency collaboration in politically sensitive cases develops both the skills and mindsets needed to tackle high-level corruption.

Link to OSCE commitments: Ministerial Council Declaration No. 2/12 (Dublin, 2012) on strengthening good governance and combating corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism – “We agree that problems of governance, including corruption and money-laundering, deprive participating States of the capacity to effectively ensure sustainable economic, social and environmental development and undermine social cohesion, stability and security. Weak governance is among the factors conducive to the spread of terrorism. We therefore reaffirm our full commitment to tackling corruption and countering money-laundering, the financing of terrorism and related offences by making them policy priorities backed up by appropriate legal instruments, adequate financial, human and institutional resources and, where necessary, appropriate tools for their practical and effective implementation.”

On 23 and 24 September 2024, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo conducted a specialized training session on combating high-level and political corruption, bringing together 22 participants (4 women and 18 men) from the police, prosecution, tax administration and the Agency for Prevention of Corruption.

The training strengthened participants’ investigative skills, particularly in tracing and disrupting money laundering linked to corrupt activities. A combination of lectures, group discussions, case studies and interactive role-play helped participants analyse complex corruption typologies and apply evidentiary strategies. The participants tested techniques, identified procedural gaps and gained confidence in handling politically sensitive cases. Beyond technical skills, the programme promoted proactive and co-ordinated anti-corruption action. Structured collaboration exercises enhanced participants’ understanding of institutional roles in the investigative chain, reducing duplication of effort and building mutual trust.

The training also prompted reflection on prevention. Sessions on ethical leadership, transparency and accountability encouraged participants to consider internal reforms. They proposed new procedures to improve reporting mechanisms, strengthen whistleblower protections and enhance internal oversight within their own institutions.

3. Combating Corruption Pillar

■ Proactive investigation of corruption



Credit: Milan Obradović, OSCE Mission to Serbia

Good practice takeaway: Proactive investigation against corruption fosters a more co-ordinated national response.

Link to OSCE commitments: Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/04 (Sofia, 2004) on combating corruption – “commitment to make the elimination of all forms of corruption a priority and to implement effective and resolute measures against corruption.”

On 12 and 13 December 2024, the OSCE Mission to Serbia, in co-operation with the United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, organized an operational workshop for 27 prosecutors and investigators from specialized anti-corruption departments in the appellate jurisdictions of Belgrade, Niš, Kraljevo and Novi Sad. The workshop provided law enforcement practitioners with practical guidance on conducting proactive investigations in corruption and corruption-related cases.

3. Combating Corruption Pillar

■ Regional Forensic Conference



Good practice takeaway: A platform for regional and international exchange on advanced forensic methods ensures that forensic centres are better equipped to support the fight against organized crime across borders.

Link to OSCE commitments: Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/20 (Tirana, 2020) on preventing and combating corruption through digitalization and increased transparency – “increase efforts to effectively prevent and combat corruption, including through digitalization, while upholding the rule of law and protecting human rights.”

On 3 and 4 October 2024, the OSCE Mission to Montenegro supported the ninth annual Regional Forensic Conference, gathering 20 representatives (5 women and 15 men) from South-Eastern Europe, as well as from Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Participants presented their work and exchanged expertise on emerging topics such as artificial intelligence, digital signatures, DNA analysis and the effective presentation of forensic evidence in court. The event enhanced professionalism and regional co-operation, and strengthened the capacity of forensic centres to address serious and organized crime.

3. Combating Corruption Pillar

■ Handbook for Conducting Proactive and Parallel Financial Investigations



Good practice takeaway: An inclusive, multi-agency process ensures broad ownership and better implementation.

Link to OSCE commitments: Ministerial Council Declaration No. 2/12 (Dublin, 2012) on strengthening good governance and combating corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism – “We recognize that financial investigations are a crucial tool in tackling not only money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, but also related and predicate offences.”

On 6 and 7 November 2024, the OSCE Mission to Serbia, in co-operation with the EU-funded Facility supporting Rule of Law implemented by GIZ (the German Society for International Co-operation), successfully concluded its support to the Serbian Mol and the Supreme Public Prosecutor’s Office in developing the *Handbook for Conducting Proactive and Parallel Financial Investigations*, aligned with FATF Recommendations 30 and 31.

To strengthen Serbia’s capacity to investigate complex financial investigations, the Mission launched a two-year initiative that brought together 12 experts from relevant national institutions to review existing internal instructions and develop a new *Handbook* in line with international standards and the FATF Recommendations. Throughout the process, the Mission engaged one international expert and leveraged its in-house expertise to produce a practical, user-friendly guide designed to enhance law enforcement and prosecutorial effectiveness in tackling money laundering, terrorism financing and organized crime.

Finalized in 2024, the *Handbook* will be followed by a nationwide series of scenario-based training courses for prosecutors and investigators to support its practical implementation.

3. Combating Corruption Pillar

■ Handbook for Managing Electronic Devices, Electronic Evidence and their Carriers



Credit: Milan Obradović, OSCE Mission to Serbia

Good practice takeaway: Developing a practical handbook and strengthening interagency co-ordination equips investigators with the skills and tools needed to effectively tackle corruption, particularly in complex cases involving electronic evidence and emerging risks such as virtual assets.

Link to OSCE commitments: Ministerial Council Declaration No. 2/12 (Dublin, 2012) on strengthening good governance and combating corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

In 2024, the OSCE Mission to Serbia, in co-operation with the EU-funded project “Facility supporting Rule of Law” implemented by GIZ, supported the Serbian Mol in enhancing the co-ordination and operational independence of the Anti-Corruption Department.

To address emerging challenges in corruption-related investigations, the Mission facilitated the development of the *Handbook for Managing Electronic Devices, Electronic Evidence and their Carriers* for investigators dealing with corruption cases. The Mission also co-organized meetings of a group of experts (2 women and 5 men) representing the Anti-Corruption Department, the Service for High-Tech Crime, the National Crime Forensic Centre and the Training Police Directorate.

The development of the *Handbook* aims at bridging gaps created by new organizational frameworks within the Mol, strengthening inter-departmental co-operation and ensuring a more structured and efficient approach to managing electronic evidence.

The *Handbook* was finalized in 2024. The Mission is now preparing a follow-up series of training courses in 2025 to introduce prosecutors and investigators across Serbia to its practical application.

Conclusion

The impact stories presented in this 2024 update illustrate how the OSCE translates commitments into concrete anti-corruption actions and results. The OSCE supported the development of national frameworks and operational tools — from risk assessment methodologies and financial investigation manuals to digital platforms for training and transparency. The experiences highlight the growing support for innovative tools and youth-focused campaigns. Other projects underline OSCE's continued commitment to

integrating gender equality and a whole-of-society approach to governance. Initiatives such as the study visit to Italy and the Regional Forensic Conference in Montenegro show that co-operation among law-enforcement, judicial and oversight institutions remains central to combating corruption and organized crime. These initiatives demonstrate the OSCE's ability to adapt to emerging challenges, foster co-operation across institutions and borders, and strengthen integrity, accountability and good governance.

Summary of Takeaways

Name of the good practice	Implementing structure	Takeaway	Date
Digitalization of municipal public services	OSCE Mission in Kosovo	The initiative is strengthening municipal transparency and citizen access to services. The balanced participation of women and men in the training has further contributed to sustainable and inclusive digital transformation in local governance.	October 2024
Whistleblowing as a tool against corruption	OSCE Mission in Kosovo	By combining legal guidance with practical training and peer exchange, the workshops are strengthening Kosovo's whistleblowing framework. The inclusive approach — covering both local and central institutions — ensures broader ownership of the mechanism.	November 2024
Combating high-level and political corruption	OSCE Mission in Kosovo	Training on politically sensitive cases in interagency collaboration develops both the skills and mindsets needed to tackle high-level corruption.	September 2024
E-learning training platform for police	OSCE Mission to Montenegro	By combining technical support with capacity-building and mentoring, the OSCE Mission ensures that the platform is sustainable, user-driven and adaptable — offering a model that can be replicated by other institutions seeking to digitalize professional training.	October 2024
Regional Forensic Conference	OSCE Mission to Montenegro	A platform for regional and international exchange on advanced forensic methods ensures that forensic centres are better equipped to support the fight against organized crime across borders.	October 2024
Good Governance Resource Centre (GGRC)	OSCE Centre in Ashgabat	The GGRC has proven to be a sustainable hub for expertise and interagency co-operation, offering a model for embedding anti-corruption resources within national institutions.	October 2024
International Financial Olympiad	OSCE Centre in Ashgabat	Linking training with an international competition creates strong motivation, measurable results and a replicable model for engaging youth in financial integrity matters.	September 2024
<i>Operational Handbook on National Risk Assessment (NRA)</i>	OSCE Mission to Serbia	By consolidating multiple NRAs into a single operational handbook, Serbia is strengthening its evidence base for risk assessment and supervision.	November 2024
Gender equality in local self-governments	OSCE Mission to Serbia	The focus on practical tools ensures sustainability and provides a replicable model for mainstreaming gender in public administration.	October–November 2024
9th edition of the Democracy Academy	OSCE Mission to Serbia	By combining academic expertise, practical training and mentorship, the Academy fosters both knowledge and confidence in democratic values among young leaders.	September 2024
Asset recovery training	OSCE Mission to Serbia	It is crucial to develop a shared understanding of the asset recovery process among police officers, prosecutors and judges.	October–December 2024
Proactive investigation of corruption	OSCE Mission to Serbia	Proactive investigation of corruption fosters a more co-ordinated national response.	December 2024
Internal instruction on oversight mechanisms	OSCE Mission to Serbia	Strengthening police accountability through clear SOPs, expert collaboration and inclusive participation enhances investigative oversight, improving the resolution of complex and unsolved cases.	December 2024

Summary of Takeaways

Name of the good practice	Implementing structure	Takeaway	Date
<i>Handbook for Conducting Proactive and Parallel Financial Investigations</i>	OSCE Mission to Serbia	An inclusive, multi-agency process ensures broad ownership and better implementation.	November 2024
<i>Handbook for Managing Electronic Devices, Electronic Evidence and their Carriers</i>	OSCE Mission to Serbia	Strengthening interagency co-ordination through a practical handbook equips investigators with the skills and tools needed to effectively tackle corruption, particularly in complex cases involving electronic evidence and emerging risks such as virtual assets.	November 2024
Municipal integrity management systems	OSCE Mission to Skopje	Advancing integrity at municipal level requires practical training, strong participation of women and men, and measurable improvements in both knowledge and implementation.	June to December 2024
Masterclass “Corruption and Gender”	OSCE Mission to Skopje	By engaging students in an interactive discussion that combines academic research, law-enforcement practice and gender perspectives, the masterclass strengthened future legal professionals’ awareness of gendered forms of corruption.	December 2024
Masterclass on anti-corruption	OSCE Mission to Skopje	A practical, case-based learning approach to anti-corruption strengthens future legal professionals’ capacity to uphold the rule of law.	October 2024
Building integrity and fostering interagency co-operation in the civil service	OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina	Strengthening integrity in the public sector requires co-ordinated, competency-based training for civil servants, particularly those in managerial roles. Emphasizing transparency, ethical governance and digital transformation fosters measurable improvements in both knowledge and application.	October and November 2024
Corruption risk assessment methodology in public procurement	OSCE Presence in Albania	A robust risk assessment framework in public procurement relies on institutional ownership.	December 2024
MY WAY – without crime, corruption and drugs!	Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) and TNTD	By empowering young people to design and lead their own awareness activities in the anti-corruption campaign has fostered ownership, creativity and credibility among peers.	September to December 2024
Peer-to-peer exchange	Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA)	Peer-to-peer exchange builds professional networks and strengthens cross-border investigations.	November 2024
Ethical media content by young journalists	OSCE Support Programme for Ukraine	Investment in journalism education strengthens ethical media.	December 2024

Timeline

September 2024

- **Combating high-level and political corruption** – OSCE Mission in Kosovo
- **9th edition of the Democracy Academy** – OSCE Mission to Serbia
- **International Financial Olympiad** – OSCE Centre in Ashgabat
- **MY WAY – without crime, corruption and drugs!** – OCEEA-TNTD

October 2024

- **Digitalization of municipal public services** – OSCE Mission in Kosovo
- **E-learning training platform for police** – OSCE Mission to Montenegro
- **Good Governance Resource Centre** – OSCE Centre in Ashgabat
- **Masterclass on anti-corruption** – OSCE Mission to Skopje
- **Regional Forensic Conference** – OSCE Mission to Montenegro

November 2024

- **Whistleblowing as a tool against corruption** – OSCE Mission in Kosovo
- **Operational Handbook on National Risk Assessment** – OSCE Mission to Serbia
- **Handbook on conducting financial investigations** – OSCE Mission to Serbia
- **Peer-to-peer exchange** – OCEEA

December 2024

- **Corruption risk assessment methodology in public procurement** – OSCE Presence in Albania
- **Proactive investigation of corruption** – OSCE Mission to Serbia
- **Municipal integrity management systems** – OSCE Mission to Skopje (June–Dec 2024)
- **Gender equality in local self-governments** – OSCE Mission to Serbia (Oct–Nov 2024)
- **Ethical media content by young journalists** – OSCE Support Programme for Ukraine



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