

Post-Event Summary Report

HIGH-LEVEL MULTI STAKEHOLDER SIDE
EVENT OF THE BERLIN PROCESS ON
ANTI-CORRUPTION AND GOOD
GOVERNANCE: ADVANCING THE PATH
TO EU INTEGRATION

OCTOBER 2025



October 6th, 2025
Sarajevo, BiH

 UK Government

 REGIONAL
ANTI-CORRUPTION
INITIATIVE


Bosna i Hercegovina
Ministarsvo pravde Bosne i Hercegovine



In partnership with:

 **HELVETAS**

 Funded by
the European Union

Supported by:

 **THE AIRE CENTRE**
Advice on Individual Rights in Europe

With funding from
 Austrian
Development
Cooperation

High-Level Multi Stakeholder Side Event of the Berlin Process on Anti-Corruption and Good Governance: Advancing the Path to EU Integration

Date: 6 October 2025

Location: Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Organizer: Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI)

In Partnership with: HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation (HELVETAS) and European Union Police Assistance for BiH – EUPA4BIH

Hosts: UK Government (host of the Berlin process), Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Supported by: The AIRE Centre Western Balkans and Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

This post-event summary report was prepared under the coordination of the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat, in cooperation with HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and European Union Police Assistance for BiH – EUPA4BiH, and in partnership with the AIRE Centre – Advice on Individual Rights in Europe.

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On behalf of the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat, I wish to express sincere appreciation to all partners and colleagues who contributed to the successful organisation of the Side Event on Anti-Corruption and Good Governance under the 2025 Berlin Process.

We are particularly grateful to HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, EUPA4BiH – European Union Project for Public Administration Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the AIRE Centre Western Balkans for their excellent cooperation throughout the process, as well as to the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the UK Government as the 2025 Berlin Process host for their continuous support and partnership.

Special thanks go to the event coordination and communications teams, whose professionalism and dedication ensured that the discussions were substantive and the messages of the event reached a wide audience across the region.

The RAI Secretariat values the strong collaboration with all institutions and stakeholders represented at the event and looks forward to continuing joint efforts to promote integrity, accountability, and good governance in the Western Balkans.

Albert Hani, Director, RAI Secretariat



PREFACE

The high level multistakeholder side event of the Berlin Process on anti-corruption and good governance was held in Sarajevo on 6 October 2025. The event was organized by the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI), in partnership with HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, the EUPA4BiH Project, and the UK Government as hosts of the Berlin Process. Co-hosted by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and supported by the AIRE Centre Western Balkans and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the event brought together over one hundred participants from across the Western Balkans and beyond, including senior government representatives and civil society actors.

The event brought together over one hundred participants from across the Western Balkans and beyond, including senior government representatives and civil society actors. The discussions reaffirmed that anti-corruption is not only a governance challenge but a defining priority for stability, prosperity, and the EU integration of the region. The event marked an important milestone with the entry into force of the Treaty on Exchange of Data for the Verification of Asset Declarations, underscoring the value of regional cooperation and practical implementation.

Key takeaways from ministerial statements, panel discussions, and expert inputs emphasised the urgent need for:

- Ratify and implement regional anti-corruption treaties: Fast-track the entry into force of the Treaty on Exchange of Data for the Verification of Asset Declarations and the Regional Asset Sharing Agreement.
- Measure integrity to drive accountability: develop and operationalise a Regional Integrity Index to monitor national and local progress within the Berlin Process and link them to EU accession frameworks.
- Work together across all sectors: institutionalise inclusive, rule-based platforms bringing together governments, civil society, media, and the private sector for collective anti-corruption action.

- **Build trust through open governance:** Expand transparency and accountability mechanisms, including open data, monitoring tools, and public reporting.
- **Empower and enable participation in integrity reforms:** Strengthen the capacity, protection, and incentives for civil society, media, and citizen-led initiatives as key drivers of accountability and public trust.

The event reflected a strong consensus that anti-corruption must move beyond rhetoric to concrete, measurable action, driven by inclusive partnerships and anchored in lasting institutional commitment.

I. INTRODUCTION

On 6 October 2025, Sarajevo hosted a landmark high-level side event within the Berlin Process, bringing together Ministers of Justice, senior government officials, international partners, as well as representatives from civil society and academia. The event marked a significant milestone in advancing regional cooperation and reinforcing integrity frameworks across the Western Balkans.

Held under the theme “Anti-Corruption and Good Governance: Advancing the Path to EU Integration,” the side event underscored that anti-corruption is a cornerstone of democratic development, regional stability, and the Western Balkans’ path toward EU accession.

Building on this shared commitment, and for the first time under the Berlin Process, the event brought together 52 representatives of governments from across the Western Balkans, as well as Bulgaria and Croatia, including ministers of justice, deputy ministers, state secretaries, directors of anti-corruption agencies, prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement officers. It also convened 57 participants from civil-society organisations and think tanks dedicated to advancing transparency and integrity reforms.

Numbers That Speak

From 1–8 October 2025, the Berlin Process Regional Event in Sarajevo captured widespread media attention, showcasing high-level engagement and regional cooperation. Coverage highlighted the event’s impact on integrity, transparency, and good governance across the Western Balkans, boosting public awareness of RAI’s mission and initiatives. On the day of event, media engagement was broad, with 11 outlets from Bosnia and Herzegovina present on-site and 35 outlets broadcasting coverage nationwide. Regional coverage data will be collected in addition.



PARTICIPANTS

Over 120 engaged participants from across WB, representing a dynamic mix of sectors and regions, came together for this impactful event.



MEDIA

More than **15 media representatives across the region**, spanning the entire Bosnia and Herzegovina — including both the Federation and Republika Srpska — attended the event.



MENTIONS

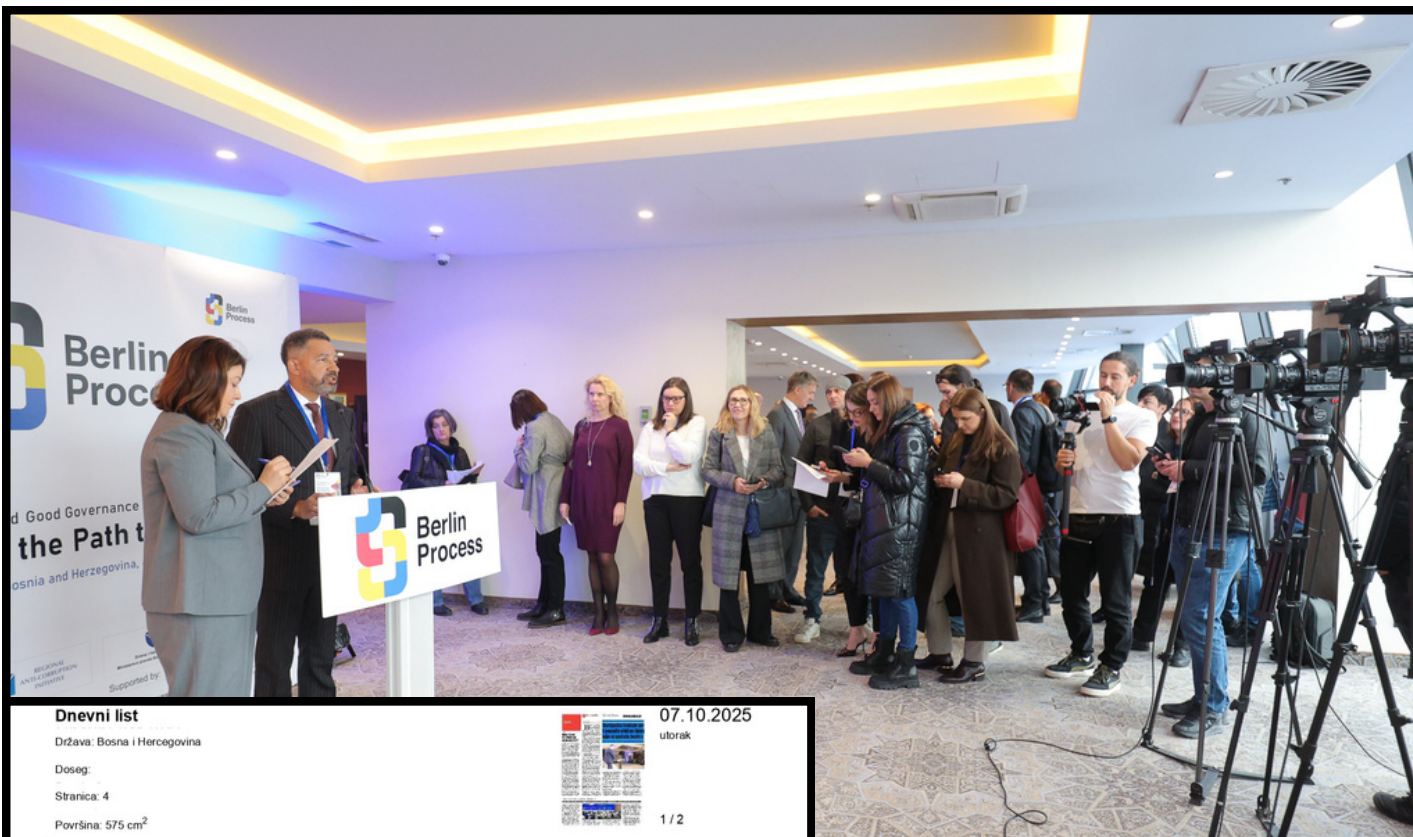
An impressive **total of 114 media mentions was captured across all types of outlets**, highlighting the widespread visibility and impact of the event.



MEDIA PRESENCE

35 outlets broadcasting coverage nationwide.

Media outlets such as BHRT, N1, Federalna TV, Oslobođenje, FENA, Klix, and EuroNews provided broad coverage.



Dnevni list

Država: Bosna i Hercegovina

Doseg:

Stranica: 4

Površina: 575 cm²

07.10.2025
utorak

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Konferencija 'Antikorupcija kao pokretač dobrog upravljanja na zapadnom Balkanu'

Korupcija isušuje javne resurse i pogađa obične ljude. A BiH se nije ni počela boriti s njom

BiH se trenutno nalazi između rane i umjerene faze pripremnosti u borbi protiv korupcije. Usvajanje državnog zakona o sukobu interesa važan je korak, ali potrebna je dosljedna primjena i dalje reforme, jasan je Babajide

Nile Dragan Gradica
n.dragan@berlin-proc...

Borba protiv korupcije, jačanje integriteta i vladavine prava postaju ključne stvari za stabilnost, ekonomski razvoj i vladavinu zakona na regionalnom i nacionalnom nivou. Antikorupcija kao pokretač dobrog upravljanja na zapadnom Balkanu u Sarajevu u okviru Berlin Processa.

Studijanci su istaknuli da je proces pokrenut 2014. god. od najvažnijih platformi za razmjenu podataka u svrhu razvoja i pomirenja na zapadnom Balkanu, a borba protiv korupcije je sastavni dio.

Poseban značaj događaja je u kontekstu nedavnog stupanja na snagu Međunarodnog sporazuma o razmjeni podataka u svrhu razvoja i pomirenja na zapadnom Balkanu, a borba protiv korupcije je sastavni dio.

Predsjedavajući Regionalne inicijative (RAI) Jelenić naglasio je da borba protiv korupcije nije samo tehničko, svega političko pitanje. To je izražavanje političke volje i želite li omogućiti život u demokraciji i vladavini prava. Regionalni lider u borbi protiv političke rječi pretvara u korupciju, i drago nam je što je u BiH inicijativa prepoznata i antikorupcija. To prepoznati i antikorupcija stavio na dnevni red, kazao je. Podsetio je da RAI, osnovan prije godinu, ima devet članica, od toga tri članice Evropske unije, a ostale zemlje kandidati, što je značajan napredak regije u evropskim integracijama.

Zamjenik ministra pravde Mahmutović podsetio je da je Ministarstvo pravde BiH iniciralo broj koji predstavljaju dio evropske Bosne i Hercegovine. Uz to, kako je BiH u ožujku prošle go-

dobila 'zeleno svjetlo' za zatvaranje pregovora s EU, što predstavlja značajan korak na putu integracija, te da je Ministarstvo pravde poverljivo na činjenicu da su njihovi zakoni prepoznati od Evropske komisije. U domaćim

za Istočnu Europu Matthias Herr kaže kako je uloga civilnog društva u borbi protiv korupcije i izgradnji pravednijeg društva vrlo značajna. - Korupcija isušuje javne resurse i

Oslobođenje
Država: Bosna i Hercegovina
Doseg:
Stranica: 4
Površina: 546 cm²

04.10.2025
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Korupcija nam krađe sudbinu

O skupu koji će u Sarajevu okupiti ministre pravde država regiona, predstavnike civilnog društva i akademske zajednice, govori Albert Hani, direktor Regionalne antikorupcijske inicijative

Razgovarala: JOVANKA NINA TODOROVIĆ

Sarajevo će u ponedjeljak, 6. oktobra, biti domaćin regionalnog sastanka u okviru Berlin Processa, povrednog temom "Antikorupcija kao pokretač dobrog upravljanja na Zapadnom Balkanu". Organizuju ga vlada Velike Britanije, Regionalna antikorupcijska inicijativa (RAI), Ministarstvo pravde i Ministarstvo vanjskih poslova Bosne i Hercegovine, zajedno s HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation (HELVETAS), projektom Podrške EU policijskim agencijama u BiH (EUPA/BIH), AIRE centrom - Program za Zapadni Balkan i Austrijskom razvojnom agencijom (ADA). Tim povodom razgovarali smo sa Albertom Hanijem, direktorom Regionalne antikorupcijske inicijative, kojeg za početak pitamo koja bi bila glavna poruka ovakvog skupa.

Jedni uz druge

- Glavna poruka je da je najprije regionalna saradnja potrebna da se postavne temelji za dobri i smisleni borbu protiv korupcije u regionu i drugu poruku bi bila da postoji veliki broj dobrih primjera i uspjeha kroz cijelu Evropu te uspješne treba da postignemo kao cilj. U svakom slučaju, očekujemo da će naše insistiranje, odnosno lobiranje da se integrišu političke sisteme pomoći da naše države, odnosno države u ovom slučaju, jedna uz drugu, reflektiraju i smislje se bore protiv korupcije.

Berlinski proces pokrenut je još 2014. godine kao platforma za jačanje saradnje između Zapadnog Balkana i EU. Koliko smo napredovali?

- Rekao bih da je Berlin Process specifična, usmjerena platforma dijaloga koja pomaže regionu da stupi u kontakt i da ne samo da razmatra nego i da razriješi puno situacija i problema koji postoje u regionu. Pristecima,



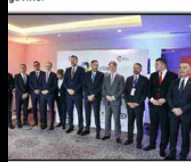
Albert Hani: Mladi su ključan faktor promjena / SENAD GUBELIĆ

UPRILIČEN REGIONALNI SKUP

Pratno između rane i umjerene faze pripremnosti u borbi protiv korupcije

Ministre pravde i vanjskih poslova država Zapadnog Balkana, Evropske unije, međunarodnih organizacija, eksperte, akademsku zajednicu i civilno društvo, a fokus je bio na dvjema ključnim temama - kroz regionalnu saradnju i antikorupciju kao temelju stabilnosti i ekonomskog rasta

BiH iniciralo brojne zakone koji predviđaju dio evropskog puta Bosne i Hercegovine.



Skup

U BiH ćemo raditi na jačanju institucija, integriteta i borbi protiv korupcije. Taj događaj važna je prilika da srima iz regiona i međunarodne zajednice izmijenimo iskustva, pozitivne prakse, te zajedno detektujemo izazove koji pred našim društvima", rekao je Jelenić.

U BiH je u martu prošle godine zeleno svjetlo za zatvaranje pregovora s EU, što predstavlja značajan korak na putu integracija, te da je Ministarstvo pravde poverljivo na činjenicu da su njihovi zakoni prepoznati i od Evropske komisije i od domaćih institucija.

U vanjskih poslova BiH Elmedinović ukazao je na važnost političke volje u borbi protiv korupcije, navodeći da Ured za borbu protiv korupcije u Sarajevu kao jednog od najefikasnijih delata funkcioniranja sistema kada je odlučnost vlasti.

Ured danas, bez obzira na političke promjene, procesuirao i one koji su ga osnovali, te je jedini pravi put za borbu protiv korupcije. Takva svijest mora zaživjeti i na nacionalnom nivou, rekao je Konaković.

U BiH je i formiranje posebnog odjela na nacionalnom nivou koji se bavi istraganjem svih djela, ocjenjivati to važnim iskustvom, ali i upozorio da je korupcija i dalje prisutna u bosanskohercegovačkom društvu.

Primjena zakona

U BiH pobijedimo korupciju, ona će poboljšati. Ova zemlja nema perspektive s



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Regionalno tržište

Zamjenik šefa Delegacije Evropske unije u BiH Adebayo Babajide podsetio je da Berlin Process ima za cilj jačanje regionalne saradnje, stabilnosti, privrednog razvoja i evropskih integracija.

"Evropska unija s velikim interesom iščekuje uspostavu zajedničkog regionalnog tržišta koje će omogućiti postepenu integraciju ekonomija Zapadnog Balkana u evropsko jedinstveno tržište", rekao je Babajide. Istaknuo je da EU pozdravlja konkretne rezultate Berlin Processa, poput međusobnog priznavanja diploma, te podsetio da je Plan rasta za Zapadni Balkan, pracen investicijama od šest milijardi eura, zamišljen kao most između regionalnog i evropskog tržišta.

"Bosna i Hercegovina se trenutno nalazi između rane i umjerene faze pripremnosti u borbi protiv korupcije. Usvajanje državnog zakona o sukobu interesa važan je korak, ali potrebna je dosljedna primjena i dalje reforme", zaključio je Babajide.

Opening Session

In his keynote address, H.E. **Elmedin Konaković**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, expressed pride in BiH's role as host for its second Berlin Process event. He reaffirmed the country's deep commitment to regional cooperation and reform. The Minister described the Berlin Process as a key platform driving meaningful change in the Western Balkans, identifying the fight against corruption as a top priority. Combating corruption, he noted, is essential to restoring trust, ensuring accountability, and creating a future in which young people see a place for themselves in their home countries. Concluding his remarks, the Minister called the fight against corruption not only a strategic policy goal, but also a moral and political imperative for the region's future within the European family.

The opening session of the event also featured addresses from several high-level representatives, offering diverse perspectives on regional cooperation, multistakeholder engagement, and the operationalisation of anti-corruption commitments.

Speakers included:

- Mr. **Dražen Jelenić**, Chair of the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI)
- H.E. **Julian Reilly**, British Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- H.E. **Georg Diwald**, Austrian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mr. **Adebayo Babajide**, Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to BiH and EU Special Representative
- Mr. **Matthias Herr**, Regional Director for Eastern Europe, HELVETAS
- Mr. **Elvir Mahmuzić**, Deputy Minister of Justice, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Speaking on behalf of the organisers, Mr. Dražen Jelenić emphasised RAI's role in building trust between institutions and citizens, and in turning political commitments into concrete reforms. Mr. Matthias Herr echoed this message, stressing the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach and proposing the establishment of a Regional Integrity Index, aligned with EU benchmarks, to track progress and reinforce accountability.

The session was moderated by Mr. **Albert Hani**, Director of the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative.



II. PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Panel I: Strengthening Integrity Systems through Enhancing Regional Cooperation – From Political Commitments to Effective Implementation

This panel brought together high-level government officials and institutional representatives who examined how political commitments can be translated into operational anti-corruption mechanisms across the region. The session focused on real-challenges and successes in legal reforms, institutional collaboration, and the value of regional instruments. The session was moderated by Mr. Georg Stawa, Counsellor for Southeast Europe, Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice.

Mr. **Momo Koprivica**, *Deputy Prime Minister for the Political System, Judiciary and Anti-Corruption of Montenegro*, reaffirmed his country's determination to complete its EU reforms by 2026 and highlighted recent prosecution of high-level officials as a signal of political will. He stressed that corruption knows no borders, and thus regional cooperation must go beyond declarations and rely on shared values, digital integration, and collective accountability.

Mr. **Nenad Vujić**, *Minister of Justice of Serbia*, described the ongoing legislative reforms, including revisions to the criminal code and the law on the Anti-Corruption Agency. He framed anti-corruption as both a legal and moral responsibility that demands long-term engagement, patience, and strong cooperation between institutions.

Mr. **Elvir Mahmuzić**, *Deputy Minister of Justice of BiH*, focused on the value of regional instruments to pressure political leadership to deliver measurable results. He emphasised that aligning national action with shared regional standards can foster healthy competition and drive mutual progress in the region.

Mr. **Albert Hani**, *Director of the RAI Secretariat*, highlighted trust-building as the cornerstone of anti-corruption efforts. He emphasised the practical impact of regional cooperation and reinforced the importance of showing citizens that institutions serve them—not private or political interests.



Panel II: Anti-Corruption as a Foundation of Regional Stability and Economic Growth

The second high level panel explored how anti-corruption reforms intersect with economic development, security, and citizen trust. Government representatives from across the region shared experiences and strategies for embedding integrity into public institutions. The session was moderated by Mr. **James Hamilton Harding**, *Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy Sarajevo*.

Mr. **Tedi Dobi**, *Deputy Minister of Justice of Albania*, highlighted Albania's comprehensive judicial reforms and Albanian government zero-tolerance policy on corruption. Transparency, accountability, and responsive governance are pillars of Albania's anti-corruption strategy.

Mr. **Stoyan Lazarov**, *Deputy Minister of Justice of Bulgaria*, underlined the critical role of law enforcement bodies and whistleblower protection in ensuring integrity. He stressed that citizens must feel safe and empowered to participate in reform processes.

Mr. **Vigan Qorrolli**, *Deputy Minister of Justice of Kosovo**, presented innovative approaches such as a fully digitalised e-procurement system and a wide-reaching legal reform process involving civil society and experts to improve judicial integrity.

Mr. **Mladen Bručić Matić**, *Director General in Croatia's Ministry of Justice*, reaffirmed long-term commitment to anti-corruption through the adoption of a 10-year strategy. He highlighted the importance of civil society collaboration and best practice exchange.

Mr. **Sergej Sekulović**, *State Secretary at the Ministry of Justice of Montenegro*, provided a realistic lens, noting that while full eradication of corruption is unlikely, the goal must be to build accountable, transparent institutions that function in service of the public.

**This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*



Multi-stakeholder Expert Panel III: Strengthening Integrity Systems through Enhancing Regional Cooperation: From Political Commitments to Effective Implementation

This panel focused on the implementation of regional instruments and the operational realities of cross-border asset recovery. Discussions also covered law enforcement integrity and judicial cooperation. The discussion was moderated by Mr. **Hans van den Berg**, *Project Director, EUPA4BiH*.

Mr. **Nikola Naumovski**, *Senior Anti-Corruption Advisor at RAI Secretariat*, explained the role of the International Treaty on Exchange of Data for Verification of Asset Declarations, underlining its importance in bypassing bureaucratic hurdles and enabling direct collaboration between anti-corruption bodies.

Mr. **Aleksander Krebl**, *Team Leader of EUPA4BiH*, shared Slovenia's model for police integrity training. From academy education to continuous ethics evaluations, he stressed that anti-corruption starts from within the institutions themselves: "to fight corruption, you must have clean officers first."

Ms. **Lejla Kurtanović**, *Prosecutor and Member of the Regional Asset Recovery Network*, explained the progress and gaps in Bosnia and Herzegovina's asset recovery framework. She called for harmonisation of legal practices and stronger inter-agency cooperation.

Ms. **Sabina Đapo**, *Programme Manager at AIRE Centre – Western Balkans*, underlined the importance of practical cooperation through initiatives like the Regional Asset Recovery Platform and the draft Regional Asset Sharing Agreement. She stressed the need for measurable, cross-border results and highlighted the role of gender inclusion in anti-corruption reforms.



Multi-stakeholder Expert Panel IV: Collective Action and Anti-Corruption as a Foundation for Regional Stability and Economic Growth

This expert-driven panel showcased insights from leading civil society organisations, think tanks, and academia, focusing on multistakeholder collaboration and trust-building as tools for sustainable anti-corruption outcomes. The session was moderated by Dr. **Marika Djolai**, *HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation*.

Ms. **Scarlet Wannenwetsch**, *Basel Institute on Governance*, advocated for the permanent multistakeholder networks and collective action initiatives. She argued that anti-corruption cannot be reduced to legislation alone—it requires continuous collaboration and trust building across sectors.

Ms. **Daniela Mineva**, *Coordinator at the Center for the Study of Democracy and SELDI Network* called for structured knowledge exchange, the integration of local insights into regional strategies, and resilience in the face of slow legal progress.

Prof. **Eldan Mujanović**, *GI-TOC Expert*, discussed the vulnerability of political financing systems across the region. He warned that elite silence and weak oversight structures create space for manipulation, and emphasised the importance of public education and youth engagement in anti-corruption discourse.

Participants stressed that the **Berlin Process** framework should not only incentivize participation but also ensure protection and recognition of smaller actors, including local CSOs, investigative journalists, and informal civic movements, to strengthen civic engagement and public trust.

The discussions across four panels resulted in the following key outcomes and strategic recommendations.



PANEL IV



III. KEY OUTCOMES AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Political Commitment and Regional Instruments

The Treaty on Exchange of Asset Declarations was widely endorsed as a milestone for transparency. Participants called for its immediate ratification and implementation. The draft Regional Asset Sharing Agreement was acknowledged as a vital next step for cross-border recovery of illicit assets.

Recommendations:

Accelerate accession and implementation of both instruments, with clear national follow-up plans and regional coordination.

Enhance dialogue with the European Union on asset declaration and asset recovery, including synergies with existing EU initiatives on illicit financial flows and cross-border asset tracing.

Regional reforms should remain harmonised with EU anti-corruption standards and enlargement conditionalities, ensuring coherence with the EU integration agenda.

Promote a stronger regional ownership of anti-corruption as a trust-building mechanism, showing citizens that integrity reforms directly contribute to retaining talent and opportunities in the Western Balkans, and supporting inclusive economic growth across the region.

Speakers showcased reforms such as digitalised procurement, asset recovery mechanisms, and updates to legal frameworks. Integrity and ethics were highlighted as foundational values — from police academies to ministries — requiring consistent training, oversight, and evaluation.

ReSPA representative emphasised the importance of regional cooperation in turning political commitments into tangible implementation of anti-corruption initiatives. It presented its Regional Community of Practice on Public Sector Integrity as a platform that brings together anti-corruption agencies, schools of public administration, and ministries responsible for public administration and anti-corruption policies across the Western Balkans. The Community fosters peer exchange, promotes integrity training, and raises awareness throughout the public sector — helping to embed integrity principles in broader good governance reforms.

Recommendations:

Embed integrity and ethics systematically across justice, law enforcement, and public administration institutions — through professional training, transparent recruitment, and accountability mechanisms.

Advance digitalisation of integrity systems, including e-procurement, online transparency registers, and open data portals, as key enablers of trust between citizens and institutions.

Strengthen regional cooperation on integrity training and staff exchanges. by connecting existing regional initiatives such as the ReSPA Community of Practice with other regional mechanisms.

Advance and operationalise the Regional Integrity Index to monitor integrity progress at national and local levels within the Berlin Process framework and in alignment with EU accession benchmarks.

Promote gender equity and inclusion as integral elements of credible and resilient integrity systems, ensuring that reforms reflect and serve all members of society. Actively encourage the equal participation of women and men in public life and decision-making to enhance legitimacy, transparency, and alignment with EU values and standards.

Under RAI coordination, establish a regional task force to oversee implementation of integrity reforms and the Regional Integrity Index, and to facilitate peer-learning and staff-exchange programmes among anti-corruption and justice institutions across the region.

Monitoring mechanisms presented by the Basel Institute, SELDI/CSD, GI TOC, and ReSPA offered practical examples of evidence-based accountability. Open data initiatives and civil tech tools were recognised as enablers of transparency and public trust. Participants underlined that data-driven governance and digitalisation are central to creating accountable and efficient public institutions.

Recommendations:

Institutionalise the systematic use of monitoring tools, open data platforms, and integrity indicators to improve transparency and evidence-based policymaking at both national and local levels.

Encourage harmonisation and interoperability of oversight approaches across jurisdictions, including common standards for monitoring integrity performance.

Advance digital transformation as a key trust-building mechanism, enabling real-time transparency and public access to governance data, thus helping prevent corruption and restore confidence in public institutions.

Promote collaboration among regional knowledge partners to create synergies and avoid duplication in data collection and integrity assessments across the Western Balkans.



Participants highlighted that corruption was linked to declining trust in institutions and corruption-driven migration, particularly among youth. Addressing corruption was therefore recognised as a security, development, and demographic priority. Anti-corruption measures were seen as essential to strengthening regional stability, building trust, and creating incentives to retain young people in the region.

Recommendations:

Integrate anti-corruption measures into regional security, development and migration strategies by addressing corruption as a root cause of institutional distrust and youth emigration.

Promote inclusive and accountable governance at all levels to strengthen citizens' confidence and create incentives for young people to build their future in the region.

Highlight anti-corruption as a main trust-building mechanism that contributes directly to retaining talent and fostering social and economic resilience in the Western Balkans.

Ensure stronger regional dialogue on integrity and security, linking anti-corruption reforms with broader efforts under the Berlin Process and EU- integration process.



CSOs, think tanks, journalists, and whistleblowers were recognised as vital yet vulnerable actors. Their protection and sustainable funding, alongside institutionalised multi-stakeholder engagement, were seen as essential for lasting reform. Participants underlined that regional convergence between government, business, and civil society is crucial to tackle corruption effectively. Successful local and national initiatives should be regionalised and scaled up, particularly those demonstrating impact in transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption education.

Genuine engagement requires regular, rule-based platforms where state, civil society, media, and private sector actors meet, with legal safeguards to protect independent voices from SLAPPs and other pressures.

Recommendations:

Institutionalise inclusive and protected multi-stakeholder engagement by establishing regular, rule-based platforms that bring together government, civil society, media, and the private sector actors.

Promote convergence among public, private, and civic sectors to enable shared responsibility for anti-corruption and integrity reforms, including joint training, data-sharing, and awareness initiatives.

Support and protect independent anti-corruption actors through sustainable funding, legal safeguards, and inclusive platforms such as public-private partnerships, investigative media initiatives, and regional forums promoting integrity.

Link regional youth initiatives and anti-corruption education with ongoing regional platforms and fellowships to promote integrity, public service values, and civic responsibility among younger generations

Ensure follow-up actions should be linked with ongoing Berlin Process mechanisms, such as the Business Forum, Civil Society Forum, and relevant ministerial coordination formats, to ensure coherence and continuity.

CLOSING REFLECTIONS

This event reaffirmed that anti-corruption is not just a governance challenge—it is a defining priority for the stability, prosperity, and European future of the Western Balkans. The active engagement of Ministers of Justice, senior government officials, civil society, academia, and international partners sent a clear message: the region is no longer content with dialogue alone—it is ready to act.

It was agreed that a full set of recommendations will be submitted to the UK Government as the 2025 Berlin Process host. In addition, the RAI Secretariat and HELVETAS will coordinate follow-up efforts to streamline and support the implementation of the side event's outcomes.

All participating partners and stakeholders were encouraged to mainstream the conclusions and recommendations into regional, national, and local strategies, policies, programmes, and funding frameworks. National authorities were also urged to initiate dialogues on treaty ratification and the integration of shared priorities into ongoing reform agendas.

These recommendations should be formally integrated into relevant Berlin Process fora – such as the Business Forum, Civil Society Forum, and ministerial meetings – to ensure political continuity and institutional anchoring within the regional framework.

Continued regional coordination will be ensured through the Berlin Process platform, providing a sustained framework for collaboration and accountability.

The strong and united commitment demonstrated during the event marked a pivotal shift—from statements of intent to practical implementation. Speakers consistently highlighted that restoring public trust, addressing corruption-driven migration, and unlocking the region's economic potential all depend on building and sustaining effective integrity systems. Participants also emphasised that inclusive, long-term reform requires the active participation of society as a whole, and the cultivation of a genuine culture of collective action.

Gender equity and inclusion were underlined as integral to building credible and resilient integrity systems, ensuring reforms reflect and serve all members of society. Participants reaffirmed that inclusive reforms must actively promote gender equity and the participation of women and men on equal footing in public life and decision-making. This commitment reflects EU values and enhances the legitimacy and sustainability of anti-corruption measures.

By advancing regional cooperation through instruments like the International Treaty on Exchange of Data for the Verification of Asset Declarations, the draft Regional Asset Sharing Agreement, and by developing complementary mechanisms like the Regional Integrity Index, and embedding integrity into everyday governance practices, the event laid the groundwork for transparent, accountable institutions that deliver tangible results for citizens.

The Sarajevo event stands as a vital step forward in building the integrity infrastructure needed to anchor the Western Balkans in a future defined by good governance, resilience, and full European integration.



ABBREVIATIONS

ADA	<u>AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY</u>
AIRE	<u>ADVICE ON INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS IN EUROPE CENTRE</u>
BIH	<u>BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA</u>
BP	<u>BERLIN PROCESS</u>
CSD	<u>CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DEMOCRACY</u>
CSO	<u>CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION</u>
EUPA4BIH	<u>EUROPEAN UNION PROJECT FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA</u>
EU	<u>EUROPEAN UNION</u>
EU EUSR	<u>EUROPEAN UNION SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE</u>
GI-TOC	<u>GLOBAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME</u>



ABBREVIATIONS

HELVETAS	<u>HELVETAS SWISS INTERCOOPERATION</u>
MOJ	<u>MINISTRY OF JUSTICE</u>
NGO	<u>NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION</u>
RAI	<u>REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE</u>
RESPA	<u>REGIONAL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION</u>
SELDI	<u>SOUTHEAST EUROPE LEADERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRITY</u>
SLAPP	<u>STRATEGIC LAWSUIT AGAINST PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u>
UK	<u>UNITED KINGDOM</u>



**Berlin
Process**

High-Level Multi-Stakeholder
Side Event of the Berlin Process



Anti-Corruption and Good Governance in the Western Balkans:

Advancing the Path to Integration

October 6th, 2025
Sarajevo, BiH



UK Government



REGIONAL
ANTI-CORRUPTION
INITIATIVE



Bosna i Hercegovina
Ministarsvo pravde Bosne i Hercegovine



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