

National Anticorruption Strategy 2021- 2025

General objective no. 1 - Increasing the implementation of integrity measures at organizational level (includes Implementation of integrity measures at national level and Improving international cooperation in the field of integrity)

General objective no. 2 - Reducing the impact of corruption of citizens

- 1) Increasing the degree of anticorruption education of citizens and public officials, focusing on their rights in relation to public authorities and institutions and the impact of corruption on public services;
- 2) Strengthening professionalism in the career of public sector staff, including by effectively applying performance evaluation mechanisms, avoiding temporary appointments to public management positions, making recruitment procedures in the public sector more transparent and ensuring the stability of the civil service;
- 3) Ensuring an effective protection of citizens who notice alleged integrity incidents committed by public service providers;
- 4) Forming a civic culture of confrontation of the phenomenon of "small" corruption, including through the use of new technologies (e.g. social media);
- 5) Digitization of public services that can be automated, in order to reduce corruption risks generated by direct interaction with public officials;
- 6) Transparent regulation of procedures for speedy (or emergency) obtaining of public services;
- 7) Ex-post evaluation of public policies from the perspective of performance and profitability of public spending.

General objective no.3 - Strengthening institutional management and administrative capacity to prevent and combat corruption

Specific objective no. 3.1. - Streamlining the preventive anticorruption measures by remedying the legislative gaps and inconsistencies, as well as by ensuring their effective implementation

Specific objective no. 3.2. - Expanding the culture of transparency for an open government in the public administration

Specific objective no. 3.3. - Improving management failure management capability by linking tools that impact on early identification of institutional risks and vulnerabilities

General objective no. 4 Strengthening integrity in priority areas of activity

Specific objective no. 4.1. - Increasing integrity, reducing vulnerabilities and corruption risks in the public healthcare system

1. Consolidation of the mechanism of prioritization of budgetary allocations and evaluation of the opportunity of decisions of the Ministry of Health and National Health Insurance House on the use of public funds according to specific methodologies;
2. Making the use of public resources more transparent by centralized publishing of data on health procurement (on the www.ms.ro website and other IT platforms);
3. Supplementation and consolidation of the control and integrity structures of the Ministry of Health and NHI;
4. Establishment at the level of the Ministry of Health and NHIH of a common mechanism for monitoring and control of providers in the social health insurance system;
5. Strengthening the mechanism of traceability of medicines on the Romanian market;
6. Introduction in the management contract of public hospitals of evaluation indicators by which corruption acts, incompatibilities, abuses and conflicts of interests of subordinated staff are considered management failures;
7. Optimizing the implementation of the standard methodology for assessing corruption risks within the central public authorities and institutions, within the public health system;
8. Carrying out continuous methodological guidance activities on topics regarding transparency, ethics and integrity, dedicated to the staff of the institutions in the public health system.

The monitoring of the implementation of this specific objective will be carried out by a dedicated Working Group, which will meet on a quarterly basis. The monitoring procedure will be detailed within the Methodology for monitoring the implementation of the strategy, approved by order of the Minister of Justice, after consulting the cooperation platforms.

Specific objective no. 4.2. - Increasing integrity, reducing vulnerabilities and corruption risks in the national education system

1. Approach within the disciplines aimed at developing and diversifying social and civic competences within the pre-university education of the topics related to the prevention of victimization and discrimination, the rule of law, the management of aggressiveness and the prevention of corruption;
2. Approval of a guide for the elaboration of the code of ethics, adapted to the specific needs, at the level of the pre-university education institutions;
3. Strengthening the standardized publication of information on incomes, expenditures, public procurement, sponsorships, as well as academic activity at the level of the public education system units / educational institutions (centralized / aggregated publication);
4. Extension of the protocol on legal education in schools including for the university environment;
5. Strengthening the mechanisms of authorization / accreditation / certification of anticorruption course providers from the perspective of quality of services, including by establishing a mechanism for continuous evaluation of the quality of services and developing a mechanism for random selection of the National Authority for Qualifications evaluators present at certification examinations following the conduct of

courses in compliance with the obligations of avoiding conflicts of interest and pantouflage between them and training providers;

6. Regulation at the level of primary legislation of situations that may generate conflicts of interest or incompatibilities among the teaching staff, such as practices such as tutoring granted by the teaching staff to students from their own classes, participation in after-schools held by the teaching staff of students from their own classes, elaboration of examination topics by the teaching staff for students from their own classes;
 7. Increasing objectivity by identifying IT solutions in order to designate the composition of the evaluation formats within the education system (such as Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Pre-University Education, National Center for Policy and Evaluation in Education);
 8. Ensuring the correctness of teachers' evaluations in accordance with the objectives of the study programs and integrity norms by establishing a standard procedure for random selection of the members of their evaluation commissions;
 9. Organizing ethics and integrity courses, with emphasis on those for teachers in higher education who teach ethics and integrity courses, and emphasizing ethical aspects in the courses of research methodology in higher education;
 10. The use of anti-plagiarism software both for major evaluations (bachelor's, dissertation, doctoral theses, etc.) in higher education, as well as for current evaluations within study programs (for example, essays);
 11. Standardizing the application of integrity standards by exercising by the Ministry of Education an active role of methodological support/guidance of all the persons in charge with the implementation of the SNA in the subordinated or coordinated units, including by developing model procedures;
 12. Transparency and standardization of decision-making processes in the field of quality assurance, while clarifying the roles of public institutions with responsibilities in the field (for example, MEN - ARACIS), so that the decisions in the field are predictable and easy to follow by their beneficiaries and by society as a whole. For example, making transparent the way of establishing the maximum recommended number of students schooled;
 13. Impact assessment and, where appropriate, periodical review of the instruments for monitoring, evaluation and sanctioning of deviations from academic ethics and integrity.
- The monitoring of the implementation of this specific objective will be carried out by a dedicated Working Group, which will meet on a quarterly basis. The monitoring procedure will be detailed within the Methodology for monitoring the implementation of the strategy, approved by order of the Minister of Justice, after consulting the cooperation platforms.

Specific objective no. 4.3. - Increasing integrity, reducing vulnerabilities and corruption risks in the local public administration

1. Creating a uniform regulatory framework on the administrative procedures available at the level of territorial administrative unit, thus reducing the degree of vulnerability;
2. Digitizing the process of obtaining authorizations (regarding the five administrative procedures described in the Study on the analysis of administrative procedures that are most vulnerable to corruption) and minimizing the interaction between the civil servant and the citizen;
3. Annual update of the integrity index score within the local public administration;

4. Carrying out joint projects/activities with the participation of local public authorities and civil society representatives, with the objective of preventing corruption, promoting ethics and integrity;
5. Establishing eligibility conditions from the perspective of the integrity framework applicable to LPAs in order to access public funds;
6. Making the procedures for allocating funds transparent through the national investment programs and streamlining the mechanisms for collecting and publishing data on the implementation of the projects financed by the program.

Specific objective no. 4.4. - Increasing integrity, reducing vulnerabilities and corruption risks in the field of public procurement

1. Analysis of the judicial practice in the field of public procurement, useful analysis for the unification of the practice, including by promoting appeals in the interest of the law (measure taken from the SNA 2012-2015);
2. Elaboration of a national risk map, aimed at identifying the functions involved in public procurement that are vulnerable to corruption, the areas in which public procurement is more exposed to corruption and the stages of public procurement procedures in which corruption indices appear;
3. Attracting and maintaining in the system the personnel specialized in public procurement, including by strengthening their status, professionalizing the staff and ensuring an adequate protection regime against attempts of intimidation or corruption;
4. Elaboration of guidelines for direct public procurement and models of procedures for institutional procedures exempted from Law no. 98/2016 on public procurement, with subsequent amendments;
5. Continue the reform of the ex-ante control by increasing the capacity of the staff involved in this activity to identify those elements that may affect the intensity and quality of the competition in the audited award procedures;
6. Encouraging the use of innovative approaches to involve civil society in monitoring the integrity of public procurement;
7. Addition to the procurement documentation of questionnaires on the integrity programs of the bidders.

Specific objective no. 4.5. - Increasing integrity, reducing vulnerabilities and corruption risks in the business environment

1. Continue Romania's efforts to become a full member of the OECD and the relevant working groups of the organization, and, in particular, of the Anti-Bribery Working Group. It also entails accession to the OECD Convention on combating bribery of foreign public officials in international commercial transactions, adopted in Paris on 21 November 1997, which entered into force on 15 February 1999 and its implementation;
2. Regulating the introduction of the compliance function within public enterprises and creating an appropriate occupational standard for compliance officers;
3. Development of a national system of compliance monitoring from the perspective of integrity, at the level of public enterprises;
4. Strengthening the use of integrity plans as managerial tools for promoting organizational integrity within public enterprises;
5. Exchange of good practices in the implementation of integrity programs between the private and public sectors;

6. Publication in an open format of economic and performance indicators (including budgets and subsidies received from public authorities) for enterprises in which the state is a shareholder, both through central and local public administration structures;
7. Elaboration of a study on integrity incidents and remedial measures taken in the business environment in Romania;
8. Application of standards related to open contracting data;
9. Encouraging private operators to introduce anticorruption clauses in their contracts, allowing the non-at-fault party to unilaterally terminate the contract if the other party is definitively convicted of corruption and to use due diligence questionnaires to assess the integrity of the business partners' integrity charts throughout the supply and distribution chain.

Specific objective no. 4.6. - Increasing the transparency of political advertising and the integrity of political parties financing, as well as the integrity of elections and referendums

1. Inclusion of a definition of political advertising in Law no. 334/2006 on financing the activity of political parties and electoral campaigns, republished, with subsequent amendments and completions;
2. Increasing the transparency of information on online political advertising, as well as the persons involved in the financing, preparation, location and distribution of political advertising, while marking political advertising as such;
3. Electronic reporting and centralization of information on financing the current activity of political parties, financing of electoral campaigns and referendum campaigns;
4. Ensuring the publicity in accessible formats of the sources of financing the activity of political parties, electoral campaigns and referendum campaigns, as well as of the related expenses;
5. Modification of the criteria for granting subsidies from the state budget for the activity of political parties, in order to extend the area of their granting also in the case of political parties that, although they have not obtained mandates in the Parliament or in the county councils, benefit from a significant degree of representativeness;
6. Continuous training of persons who may become members of electoral bureaus and electoral offices, electoral experts, as well as computer operators, on integrity aspects specific to electoral processes and on the reduction of corruption risks, as well as the establishment of a mechanism for evaluating their performances;
7. Regulation and making available to electoral bureaus and electoral offices an IT tool to verify the decays and prohibitions regarding the right to be elected and the right to occupy an eligible public office;
8. Adoption of the necessary measures for the operationalization of the National Electoral Network regulated by Law no. 208/2015 on the election of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, as well as for the organization and functioning of the Permanent Electoral Authority.

Specific objective no. 4.7. - Increasing integrity, reducing vulnerabilities and corruption risks in the activity of members of Parliament

1. Improving the transparency of the legislative process:
 - i. by further developing the rules on public debates, consultations and hearings, including criteria for a limited number of circumstances in which meetings are to be held secret and ensuring that they are implemented in practice;

- ii. by evaluating existing practice and reviewing the rules accordingly in order to ensure timely publicity of draft legislation, amendments to these drafts and the agendas and results of committee meetings, and to ensure appropriate time limits for the tabling of amendments, and
 - iii. by taking appropriate measures to ensure that the urgency procedure is applied as an exception in a limited number of circumstances;
- 2. Ensuring the existence of a mechanism for observing the Code of Conduct when necessary;
- 3. Establishing a robust set of rules on gifts, hospitality, favors and other benefits for parliamentarians and ensuring that such a system is properly understood and enforced;
- 4. Introduction of rules on how Members of Parliament interact with lobbyists and other third parties who try to influence the legislative process;
- 5. Analyzing and improving the immune system of incumbent senators, including those who are also current or former members of the Government, including by regulating clear and objective criteria regarding the decisions to lift immunity;
- 6. The parliamentary authority to set up for its members (i) an advisory system through which parliamentarians can seek advice on integrity and (ii) to provide specialized and regular training on the implications of the existing rules and those to be adopted in the field of preserving the integrity of parliamentarians, including the future Code of Conduct;
- 7. Ensuring an appropriate interinstitutional cooperation regarding the reporting of the degree of implementation of the recommendations made by the international bodies in the field of the fight against corruption.

Specific objective no. 4.8. - Increasing integrity, reducing vulnerabilities and corruption risks in the field of environmental protection

- 1. Training of the staff of the central and local public authorities and of the representatives of the private sector on the integrity aspects specific to the environment field (including the management of conflicts of interests in the process of application of the environmental legislation and of the use of natural resources) and the reduction of the corruption risks;
- 2. Identifying the activities that are most vulnerable to corruption;
- 3. Collaboration with the Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice, Superior Council of Magistracy, National Institute of Magistracy, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Internal Affairs in order to develop a curriculum for the professional training of practitioners involved in preventing and combating environmental crime, which should include aspects regarding the prevention and combating of associated corruption acts (Recommendation 8. GENVAL - should provide more training opportunities for practitioners involved in detecting and/or combating environmental crime (e.g. police, customs authorities, prosecutors and judges);
- 4. Development/consolidation of partnerships with non-governmental organizations/private sector active in the field of environmental protection (GENVAL 10.1.2. 2. Member States are encouraged to develop effective instruments for cooperation with NGOs to improve the resolution of environmental complaints, such as those established between the Romanian authorities and Greenpeace; (see 5.1.5 and 5.5).

Specific objective no. 4.9. - Increasing integrity, reducing vulnerabilities and corruption risks in the field of cultural heritage protection

1. Adoption of a transparent framework, based on objective criteria for the appointment, organization and functioning of specialized commissions;
2. Identification of situations that may generate conflicts of interest during the issuance of certificates, agreements, approvals, authorizations;
3. Adoption of a code of ethics for the members of the specialized commissions, as well as the regulation of the obligation of the members of the specialized commissions to submit declarations of interests;
4. Transparency, simplification and computerization of the process of issuing certificates, agreements, approvals, authorizations and ministerial orders related to cultural heritage objectives;
5. Strengthening the inspection and control mechanism regarding the issuance of certificates, agreements, approvals, authorizations and ministerial orders related to cultural heritage objectives;
6. Elaboration and implementation of operational procedures with unitary framework content at the level of the devolved services of the Ministry.

General objective no. 5 - Strengthening the performance of fighting corruption by criminal and administrative means

Specific objective no. 5.1. - Continue the progress made in the impartial investigation and settlement by the courts of high-level corruption acts also at local level

Specific objective no. 5.2. - Improving the activity of identifying, sanctioning and preventing cases of incompatibilities, conflicts of interest and unjustified assets

Specific objective no. 5.3. - Preventing and combating corruption, as facilitator of the activity of organized crime groups

Specific objective 5.4. - Strengthening the methodological coordination role of the Prime Minister's Control Body in the field of administrative control carried out at the level of the central public administration