



Ίδρυμα Φημονή - Foundation Fimonoi

ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΦΗΜΟΝΟΗ ΛΙΜΙΤΕΔ («Η Εταιρεία» μη κερδοσκοπική) Foundation FIMONOI
PO Box 25307, Nicosia 1308 Tel. 00 357 99 671214, pyrgos.com@cytanet.com.cy, www.fimonoi.com

THE STATE OF THE RULE LAW BY THE FOUNDATION FIMONOI

The foundation FIMONOI has been running a campaign against corruption for the last 15 years and it played an important role in the preparation of the laws (IAAC, lobby, public information, whistleblowers). Its President Mary Pyrgos is a voluntary reporter at the European Whistleblower Monitor.

Through our work and experience we are able to identify the challenges that need to be considered in relation to the elimination of corruption in the following sectors

ANTI-CORRUPTION FRAMEWORK

-In 2025 there was some institutional improvement in the IAAC(1)

The government increased the budget of the IAAC and this allowed the Authority to get additional employees(1)

-There was also a budget for awareness raising. A plan of action was prepared but we do not know whether they started implementing it. (1)

-in the questionnaire they say that they cooperate with the civil society(1)

-There is a new code of conduct for government employees and a number of civil servants have participated in information seminars

-The Ministry of Justice and Public Order is getting ready to initiate the ISO program on Bribery

-IAAC focuses in the examination of corruption cases that has received

Transparent Lobby

The law on transparent lobby passed from the parliament (2022)

-Members of the council of IAAC visited Ministries and Chamber of commerce to explain the provisions of the lobbying law

-IAAC has prepared a Register for lobbyists as well as rules and regulation concerning transparent lobby with government officials 259 lobbyists have registered.

This demonstrates that professionals recognize the importance of operating transparently and in accordance with the law.

-there is a lot of confusion regarding the referral of meetings and the officials are not sure when to report the meetings with lobbyist. Therefore a clearer instructions in relation to referrals of meetings is needed and constant explanation

- IAAC organised an online information seminar to explain to the lobbyists the requirements of the law on lobbying and that lobbyists must register registered on the Register of IAAC so tha they can meet officials

Despite these positive developments, **the application of the law remains uneven**, and its transformative potential has not yet been fully realised.

Although registered lobbyists comply with the law's provisions, there is a widespread perception, that **some persons continue to meet public officials without registration or disclosure**, effectively operating outside the legal framework.

Other

Training, Awareness Raising, Education

-Although IAAC is implementing an Awareness, Education and Prevention Strategy we do not know how it is implemented. We believe that

- the plan of action should be more detailed with specific objectives which can be evaluated and measurable.

- a plan of action should be based on data of research. Apart from the barometer, The only research that we know that was done is the one undertaken in 2024 by the foundation FIMONOI and a research that is currently taking place again by the foundation FIMONOI

-The funds available for the campaign of the awareness campaign of IAAC are not enough, although the amount the have it is still not used, because they have not started an effective awareness campaign

-Although a number of measures have been taken the citizens in general feel that nothing happens against corruption

-From our experience and efforts to train employees and citizens on anticorruption measures, we noticed that although everybody talks against corruption they are not willing to take anticorruption measures and training of the employees. It is not their priority

THERE IS A NEED TO URGE INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANISATIONS TO TRAIN THEIR EMPLOYEES ON A PERMANENTAND OBLICATORY BASIS AND NOT ON A VOLUNTARY BASIES

Training on how to handle whistleblowing reports continued

Mary Pyrgos President of FIMONOI represents Cyprus at the European Whistleblower's Monitor and gives information on how the law is implemented

The implementation of the provisions of the law for whistleblowers is the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order.

From scattered information we know that

- There were instructions to appoint a person in each Ministry who would be responsible for setting up a mechanism of referrals.

- The Ministries appointed a person

- The Ministry of Justice trained them, We do not have information on the training. We presume they explained the provisions of the law

Recently we sent to all Ministries a Transparency International questionnaire on the implementation of whistleblower's law.. Most of the Ministries replied that they did not have the info needed to answer it and they advised us to refer to the Ministry of Justice which is responsible for Whistleblowers. The Ministry of Justice replied that they do not answer questionnaires that come from civil society. We wrote back to say that there is a law for access to public information but the answer was the same

Raising awareness on the public's right to access information.

Acquiring information is very difficult. Civil servants do not give the information that civil society needs to prepare its programs, even when we tell them that there is a law which gives the right to access to information.

Occasionally, depending on the civil servant we may get information. But access to information remains an important obstacle

Challenges regarding administrative requirements for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) persist, while efforts to revise the legal framework are still ongoing

- The role of civil society in eliminating corruption is important but they face many challenges

- There is difficulty in getting information

There are no funds to help them promote their programs (The foundation FIMONOI has set up a Cyprus Corruption Watchdog, and a telephone line for referrals but this institution cannot function effectively due to lack of funds

- There is no adequate cooperation with Institutions.

- Civil society is active in awareness raising and the foundation FIMONOI undertakes research, offers trainings on lobbying whistleblowers and anticorruption measures. We were told that the Academy of civil servants does not function properly and they do not have trainers for corruption. When FIMONOI offers help they tell us that they can not use us because public officials have to be trained by the Academy!!!

- The cooperation between IAAC and civil society should be strengthened, because it will be beneficial in a number of ways

NGOs do not have the funds to undertake a long lasting campaign which could be more effective. There is a need of making funds available for civil society which is pushing and taking practical steps as well

The foundation FIMONOI through its activities finds that there is not enough communication and no cooperation between institutions that handle anticorruption campaign Ministries do not give information in relation to the measure they take

Suggestions

1. There is a need of communication, within the Institutions and externally
2. There is a need of cooperation between Institutions and exchange of good practices
3. There is a great need of cooperation between institutions and civil society
4. There is a need of constant training and empowerment of employees
5. There is a need of enforcement of the laws and constant supervision
6. There is a need of funding projects of the civil society
7. There is a need of an effective plan of anticorruption, which will be based on detection, prevention, awareness raising, empowerment enforcement and sanctions
8. The plan of action should be built in way that progress made can be measured and can allow analysis, evaluation and progress
9. We do not know what kind of training employees are taking.

The foundation FIMONOI in order to help institutions learn what other institutions and NGOs are doing and promote cooperation is currently collecting information on what each institution is doing in order to distribute it to all relevant institutions and NGOs. Collecting this information is very difficult.

Sectors of most risk

The sectors of most risk are

The department of preparation of procurements

Offices which offer services to the citizens

Departments which handle purchases

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End notes

1. The information came from the answers of a questionnaire that we sent to IAAC