

Projects implemented by the National Integrity Agency

Support in Implementation of the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Framework in Romania, Including Reducing the Risk of Corruption in Public Procurement

The project entitled “*Support in Implementation of the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Framework in Romania, Including Reducing the Risk of Corruption in Public Procurement*” is financed under the EU TSI programme and is carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Justice.

Technical support in the area of public integrity is provided by the OECD (which is the TA provider), to support Romania in implementing the integrity and anti-corruption framework, including reducing the risk of corruption in public procurement. Implementation of the project contributes to the ongoing reform of the legal and institutional framework on integrity in Romania. The expected long-term effects of this project are that of contributing to the ongoing reform of the Romanian integrity framework and increasing the level of integrity in public procurement, including reducing vulnerabilities and the risk of corruption.

Currently, the outputs related to the whistleblowers’ protection and strengthening regulations on pre- and post-public employment in Romania were finalized and two reports comprising findings and recommendations were released. Additionally, a training for whistleblowers’ protection was delivered to the Romanian authorities by the OECD representatives, in September 2024.

In January 2025, the project is expected to start the outputs which include recommendations to support the implementation of the new legal framework on integrity, along with suggestions for improving the conflict of interest system and streamlining the asset declaration verification process.

PNRR financed projects:

(i) PREVENT

Starting with January 2023, ANI is implementing the project entitled „*The development of the PREVENT IT system in order to increase the interoperability of the electronic systems of public institutions for the ex-ante verification of conflicts of interest in the process of awarding public procurement contracts*”, financed through Romania’s Recovery and Resilience Plan.

This project aims to achieve a technological upgrade and the modernization of the PREVENT IT system, through the transition to an intelligent IT platform (BIG DATA type) for the prevention of conflicts of interest in public procurement procedures. This upgrade is needed because the initial PREVENT system (launched in 2017) is technologically outdated in terms of software and hardware.

Currently, the Terms of References of the public procurement and the technical specification for the development of the PREVENT system are published in the Electronic System of Public Procurement (SEAP) and the contract is expected to be awarded by March 2025.

(ii) Clarification Platform (Solicit.ANI):

Starting with January 2023, ANI is implementing the project entitled „*Designing a digital platform for awareness and prevention through which relevant stakeholders will be able to clarify, on their own, certain obligations related to the integrity framework that they must comply with*”, financed through Romania’s Recovery and Resilience Plan.

The project has the general objective of reducing the number of integrity incidents by designing and developing a digital awareness and prevention IT platform entitled *Solicit.ANI*, through which relevant stakeholders will be able to clarify, in real-time, situations of conflicts of interest, incompatibilities and regarding the submitting of disclosures.

The contract with the developer was signed in February 2024 and currently, the platform is undergoing in-house testing before going live. The AI-driven platform is using a large language model (LLM) trained to read and interpret the national legislative database and provides on-demand clarifications by instantly accessing hundreds of data information points for offering clarity on the legal integrity framework.

iMonitor

Starting with the May 1st 2023, ANI, as Beneficiary, under the coordination of GTI GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY INSTITUTE LTD, is implementing the project “*iMonitor - Enhancing law enforcement efficiency by bringing together public procurement data analytics and civil monitors*”, financed through the Internal Security Fund (ISF).

To remove obstacles to corruption detection and investigation, the project is set out to combine Big Data analytics with extensive civil monitoring of ongoing contracts in Catalonia (Spain), Italy, Lithuania, and Romania.

More specifically, the project has the specific objectives of (i) building on prior EU-funded projects making public procurement data and corruption risk indicators available (opentender.eu) and a citizen reporting tool dedicated to monitoring public spending (monithon.eu); (ii) creating networks of civil monitors and law enforcement agencies to draw on civil society’s extensive reach and on-the-ground monitoring capacity; (iii) creating a dedicated reporting standard bringing together quantitative corruption risk indicators and detailed civil monitoring results to produce high-quality, targeted and operationally relevant reports for law enforcement and other public authorities; (iv) generating new investigations and other administrative responses to irregularities in contract implementation; (v) building replicable and low-cost skills development components in the project, supporting further monitoring; (vi) maintaining the 2 fundamental technological components of the project: opentender.eu and monithon.eu.

Up to present time, ANI participated in online meetings and provided feedback for the deliverables elaborated by the experts of GTI involved in the project. The project is expected to be finalized in the first half of 2025.

qAID

As of December 1st 2023, ANI, in partnership with the University of Trento (Italy) is implementing the project „*qAID - Towards contemporary knowledge and innovative tools for assessing and enhancing effectiveness of Asset and Interest Disclosure (AID) systems in EU Member States and Candidate States*”, financed through the Internal Security Fund (ISF).

The general objective of the *qAID* project is to provide EU Member States (MSs) and Candidate States (CSs) with contemporary knowledge and innovative tools to assess and improve the impact of national

asset and interest disclosure systems. More specifically, it shall (i) identify best practices and effective (including automated and digital) systems and processes through a structured evaluation process; (ii) develop a standardized EU risk analysis framework to strengthen filters for disclosures and prioritize verification, along with a roadmap for implementing automated and digital risk analysis of disclosures of relevant public officials in EU MSs and CSs; (iii) develop a comprehensive toolkit to measure the impact of disclosure systems in EU MSs and CSs and (iv) disseminate the new knowledge and developed tools among national stakeholders in EU MSs and CSs.

The contract agreement was signed in 2023 and the project is currently in the implementation phase. Desk research is being conducted on the assets and interests declaration systems in Europe.

Legitimacy and Accountability for better protection of Whistleblowers

ANI, as Beneficiary, under the coordination of Transparency International Romania, signed in 2024 the agreement for the project “*Legitimacy and Accountability for better protection of Whistleblowers*”, financed through the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV).

The main goal of the project is to contribute to national and EU efforts to support and protect whistleblowers and build the capacity of national authorities and legal practitioners to ensure adequate legal remedies for their protection. The estimated results the project will strengthen the application of the national framework and EU Directive 2019/1937, in line with respect for transparency, good governance, accountability and freedom of expression. The project will contribute to improving whistleblowers’ protection, as an additional guarantee of respect for freedom of expression and the right to information.

Throughout 2024, a series of preliminary meetings were conducted with the aim of finalizing the steps and procedures necessary for the effective and immediate implementation of the project.