



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### First session of Working Group 6, “Anticorruption”

#### Chapter 5 – Public procurement, Chapter 18 – Statistics, and Chapter 32 – Financial control

#### Topic: “Tackling and combating corruption and protecting the financial interests of the state”

Skopje, 19 July 2023

1. The Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economy, and the Public Procurement Bureau of the Republic of North Macedonia should initiate the establishment of a Central Registry for Concessions and Public-Private Partnerships, which will then facilitate the effective supervision of awarded contracts. It is most important for this registry to be transparent and public and to contain details about the specifics of the contracts including structures, conditions, and responsibilities of the parties involved. A holistic digital system that ensures consistent data entry and access should also support this registry. The registry should provide insight into the status and rights of the state towards concession holders and public-private partnerships.

2. In order to protect state assets from inappropriate devaluation and corrupt practices, it is essential for the Ministry of Finance to implement a comprehensive balance sheet for the public sector in the country. Regular assessments of assets and liabilities should be an integral part of this report, focusing particularly on the precise examination of potential cases of corruption or devaluation of state property as such.

3. The Ministry of Finance should monitor the obligations of budget users in real-time by establishing an efficient digitized system that tracks and controls obligations in real-time. Integrating this with the information system for public finance management ensures transparency and accessibility. Information regarding the obligations should be in the public domain, open for scrutiny at any time.

4. The Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Fiscal Council of the Republic of North Macedonia, and the Ministry of Finance should strengthen their role in the budgetary process - from conceptualization and ratification to oversight. Enhanced transparency and continuous dialogue between the legislative and executive branches are the foundations of this process. This is an effective way to involve the broader public in evaluating budgetary activities. The Assembly should have the mandate to address all identified irregularities, emphasizing its supervisory power.

5. The Ministry of Finance and the National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia should minimize cash transactions as a significant step in preventing corruption as such. The shift towards visible, digital transactions increases transparency and reduces the potential for



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manipulation. This change not only facilitates efficient monitoring but also promotes operational efficiency. Encouraging digital transactions and reducing the physical circulation of cash can become a cornerstone in the anti-corruption strategy of the Republic of North Macedonia. Adopting such a stance aligns the country with global standards, promotes a digital economy, and ensures transaction security. As part of this initiative, it is essential to emphasize the importance of digital transactions to the broader public, highlighting its numerous benefits ranging from practicality and efficiency to unparalleled transparency.